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#2 OF 3 ISSUE MINI-SERIES
DIRECT EDITION

Topps

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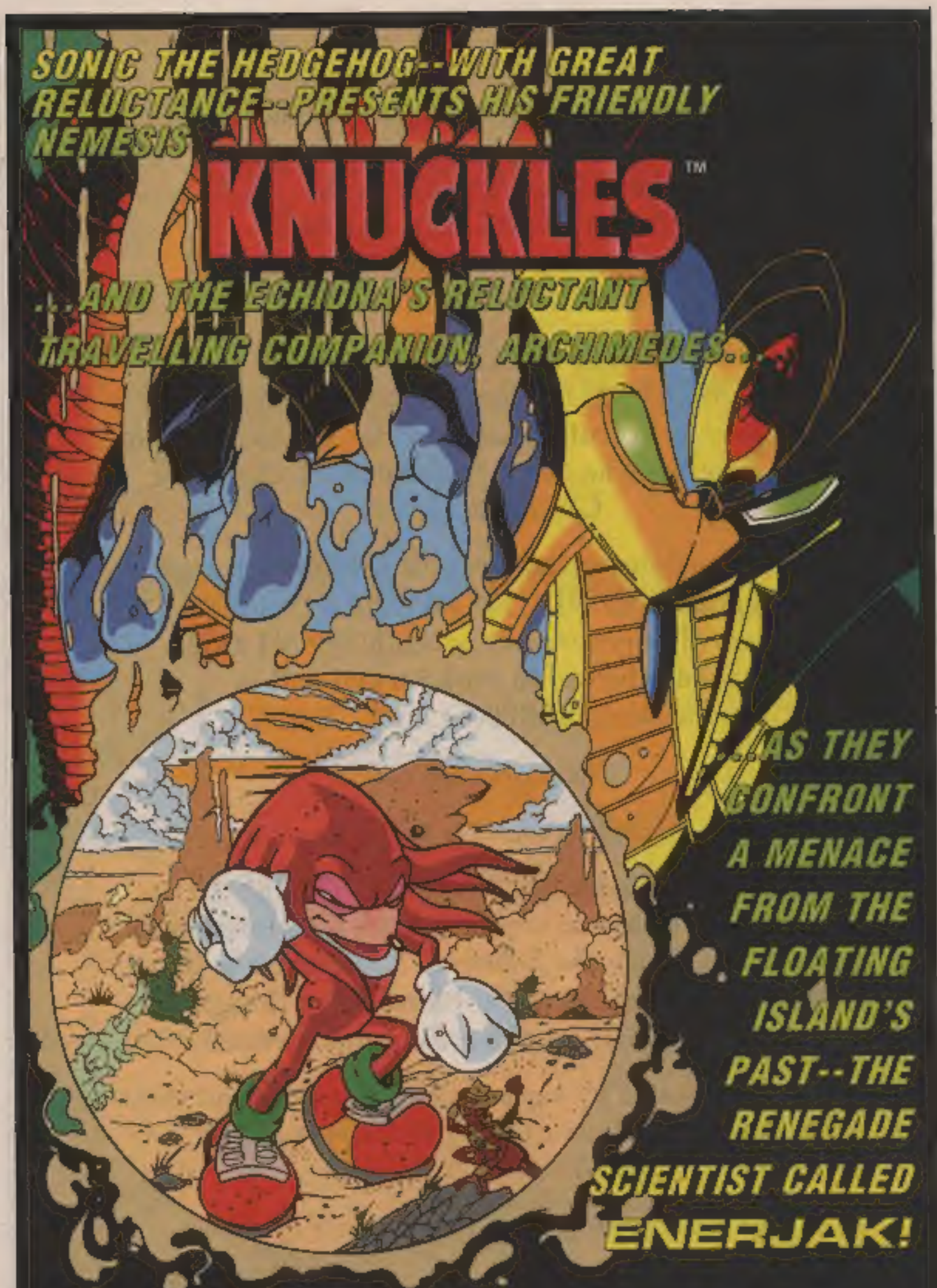

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Knuckles' ancestral heritage was one of DUTY and HONOR... or so he'd been led to believe. But today, a threat to the FLOATING ISLAND — and all existence — has unveiled the DARK SIDE of ECHIDNA CIVILIZATION.

His role as GUARDIAN of the CHAOS EMERALD — long thought the noblest of callings — is, in truth, atonement for the treachery of an ancestor who dared place HIMSELF above the GREATER GOOD.

That ancestor — the renegade Echidna scientist named DIMITRI — has survived a thousand years of imprisonment beneath MOUNT FATE, and returned to work his evil will as ENERJAR, HARBINGER OF CHAOS!

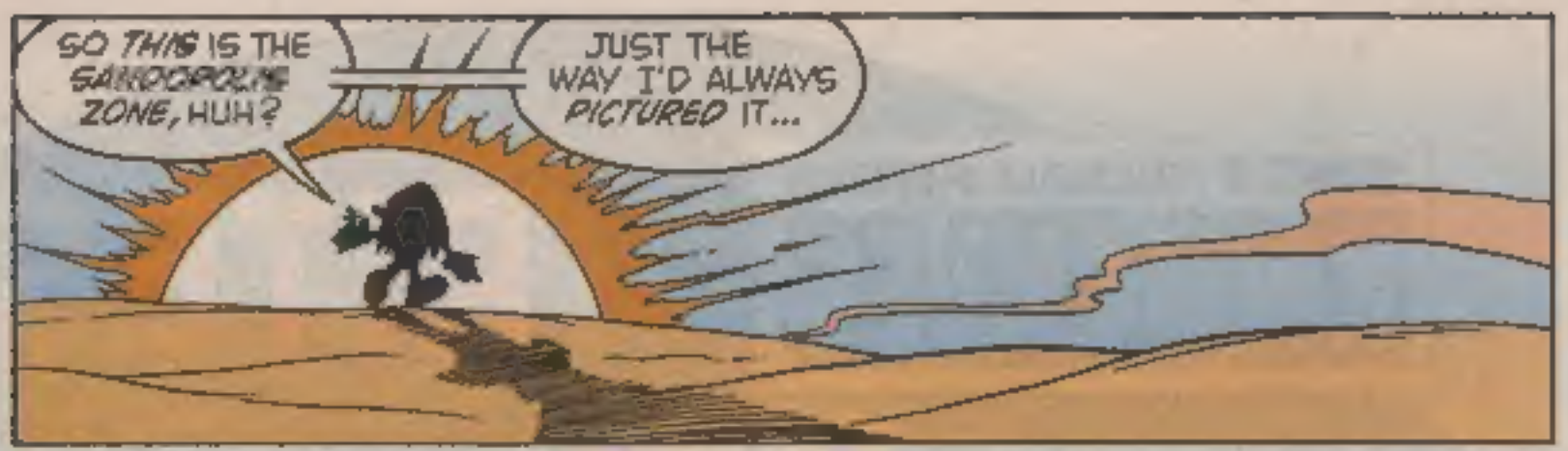
The straits are dire...

...but Knuckles is not alone.

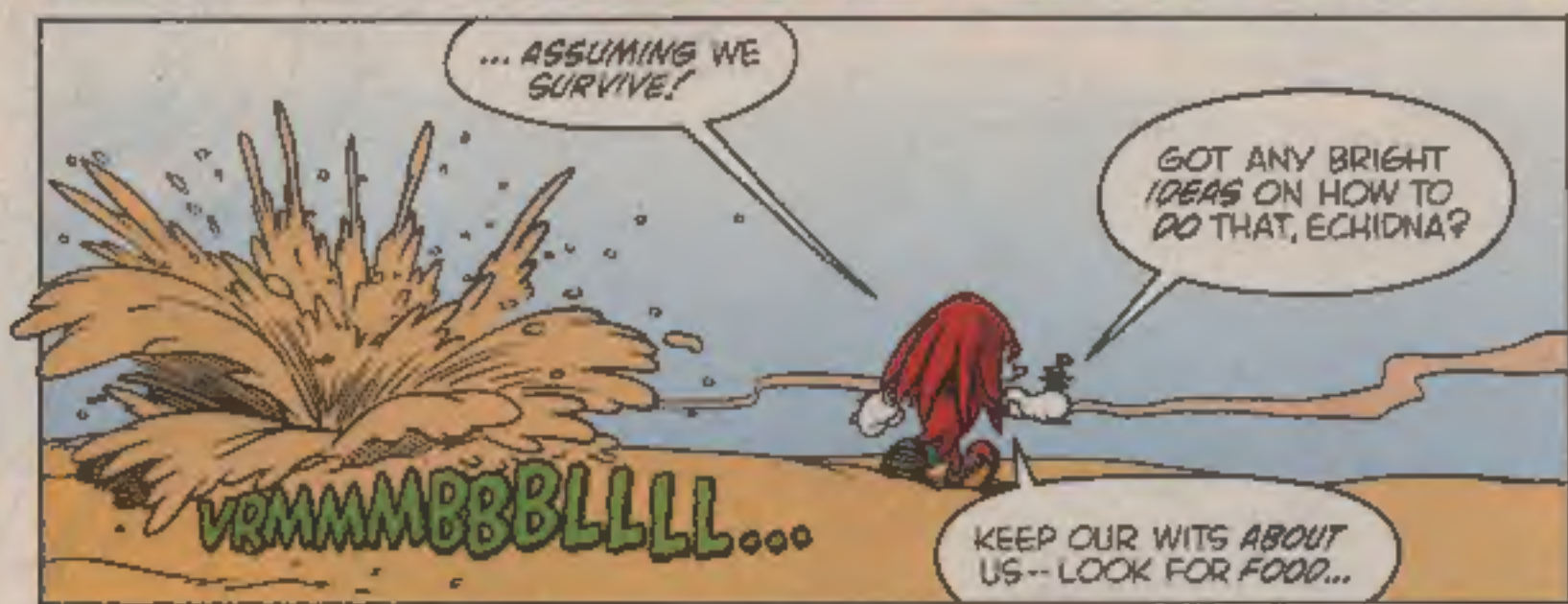
At his side stands ARCHIMEDES THE FIRE-ANT, ambassador of a race which shares a secret, symbiotic relationship with the Echidnas. A relationship dating back to the origins of the island... even though, in theory, their peoples are natural enemies!

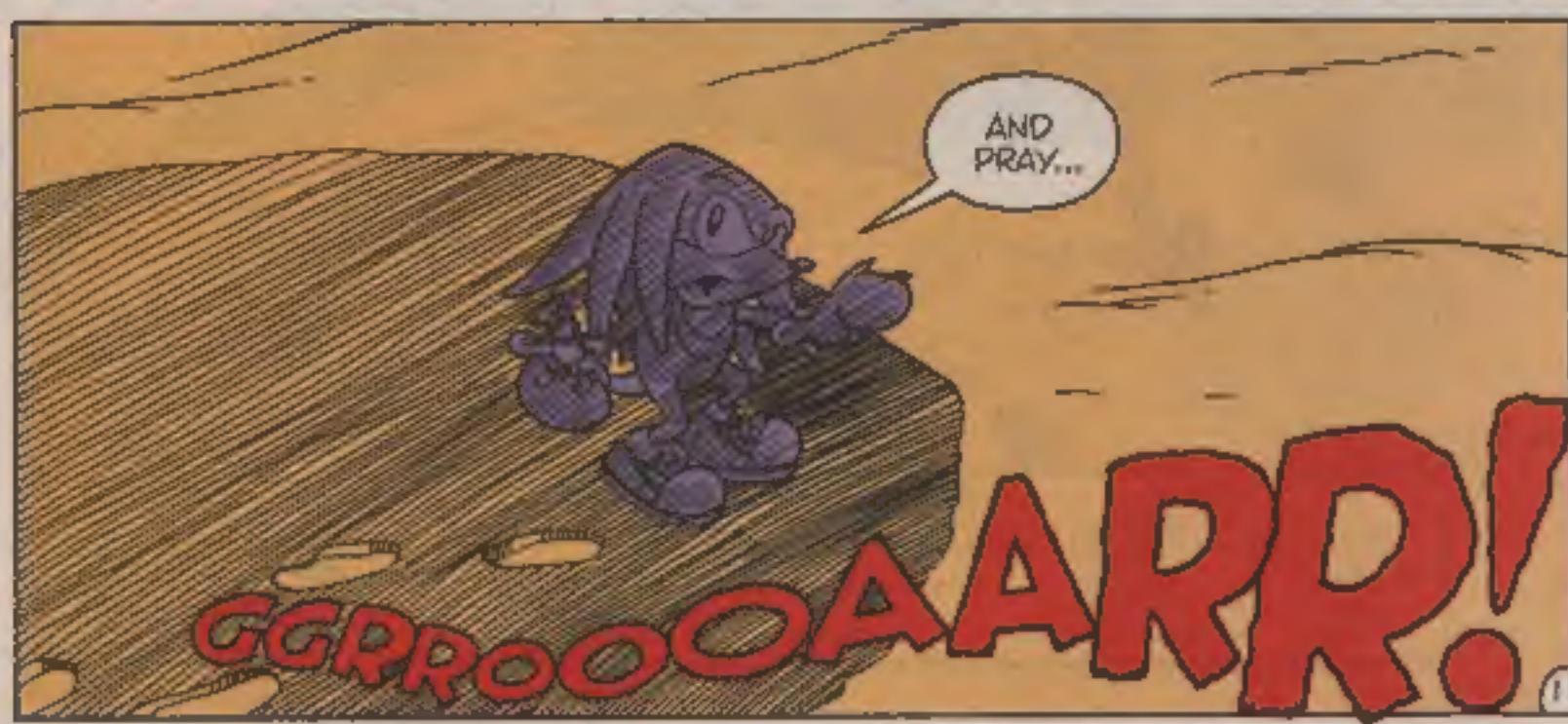
Now confronted by a greater evil, Knuckles and this unlikely ally must apply the lessons of the PAST to the PRESENT...

...or there will be no future for ANY of them!


SO THIS IS THE SAHARAPOLIS ZONE, HUH?
JUST THE WAY I'D ALWAYS PICTURED IT...

... ONLY WITH MORE SAND!
ENERJAK SURE MEANT BUSINESS WHEN HE EXILED US HERE!*
IT'LL TAKE DAYS TO CROSS THE OUTBACK...
*LAST ISSUE - Freddy


... ASSUMING WE SURVIVE!
GOT ANY BRIGHT IDEAS ON HOW TO DO THAT, ECHIDNA?
VRMMMBBBLLLL...
KEEP OUR WITS ABOUT US -- LOOK FOR FOOD...


AND PRAY...
GGRROOOAARR!

SONIC'S FRIENDLY NEMESIS
KNUCKLES™
RITES
THROUGH
SCRIPT: KEN PENDERS & MIKE KANTEROVICH
PENCILS: ART MAWHINNEY
INKS: HARVO
LETTERING: MINDY EISMAN
COLORING: KYLE HUNTER
EDITOR: FREDDY MENDEZ-GABRIE
MANAGING EDITOR: VICTOR GORELICK
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: RICHARD GOLDWATER

of PASSAGE!
PART TWO
...IT DOESN'T FIND *US* FIRST!

A SANDCRAWLER-- THE *BIGGEST* I'VE EVER *SEEN!*

THEY'RE *HEAT-SEEKERS*-- TRACK THEIR PREY BY IT'S *BODY HEAT!*

UH-OH...

POP ALWAYS *SAID* I WAS A *HOT-HEAD,* BUT--

GGRROAR!

FWA-VOOOSH!

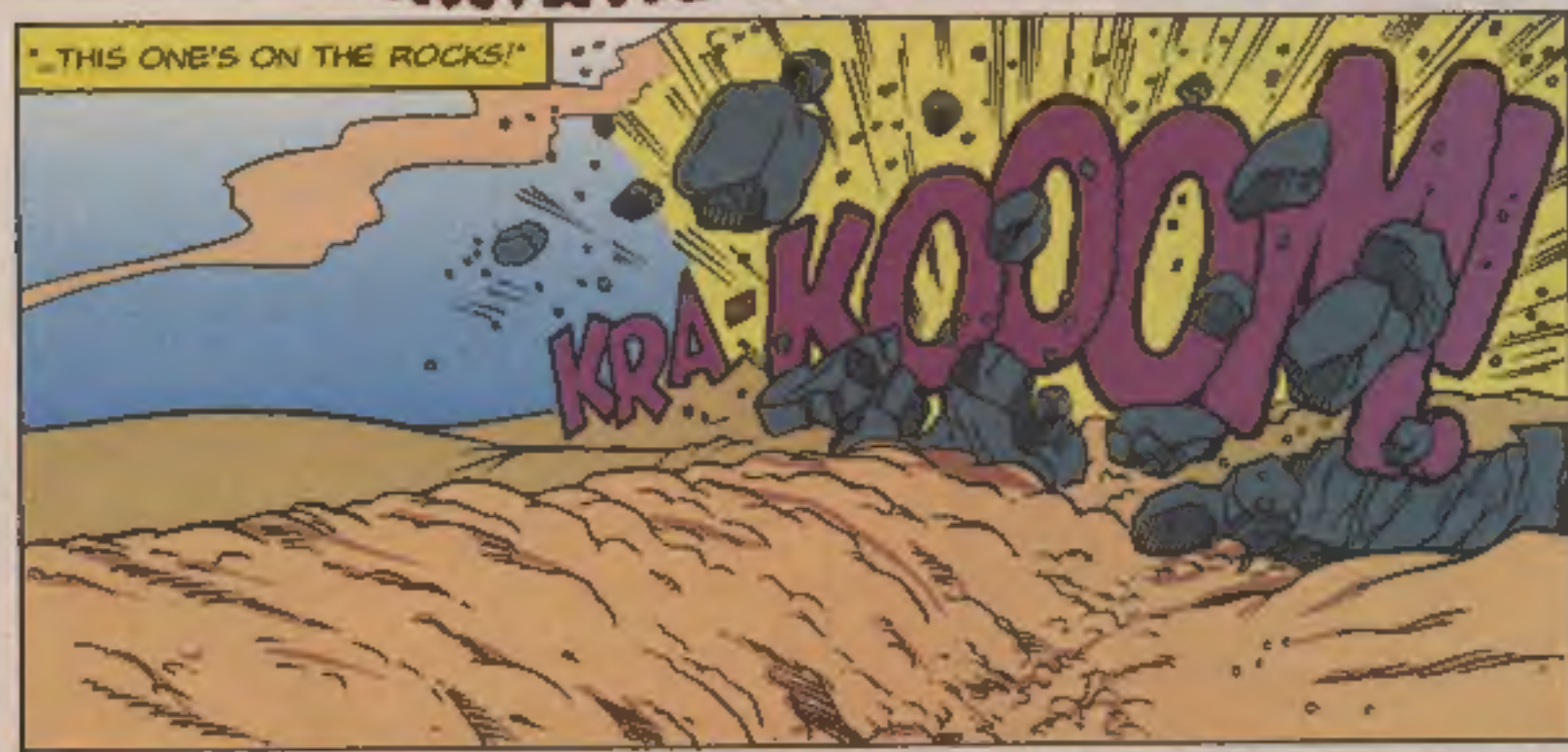
YO, *CECIL!*

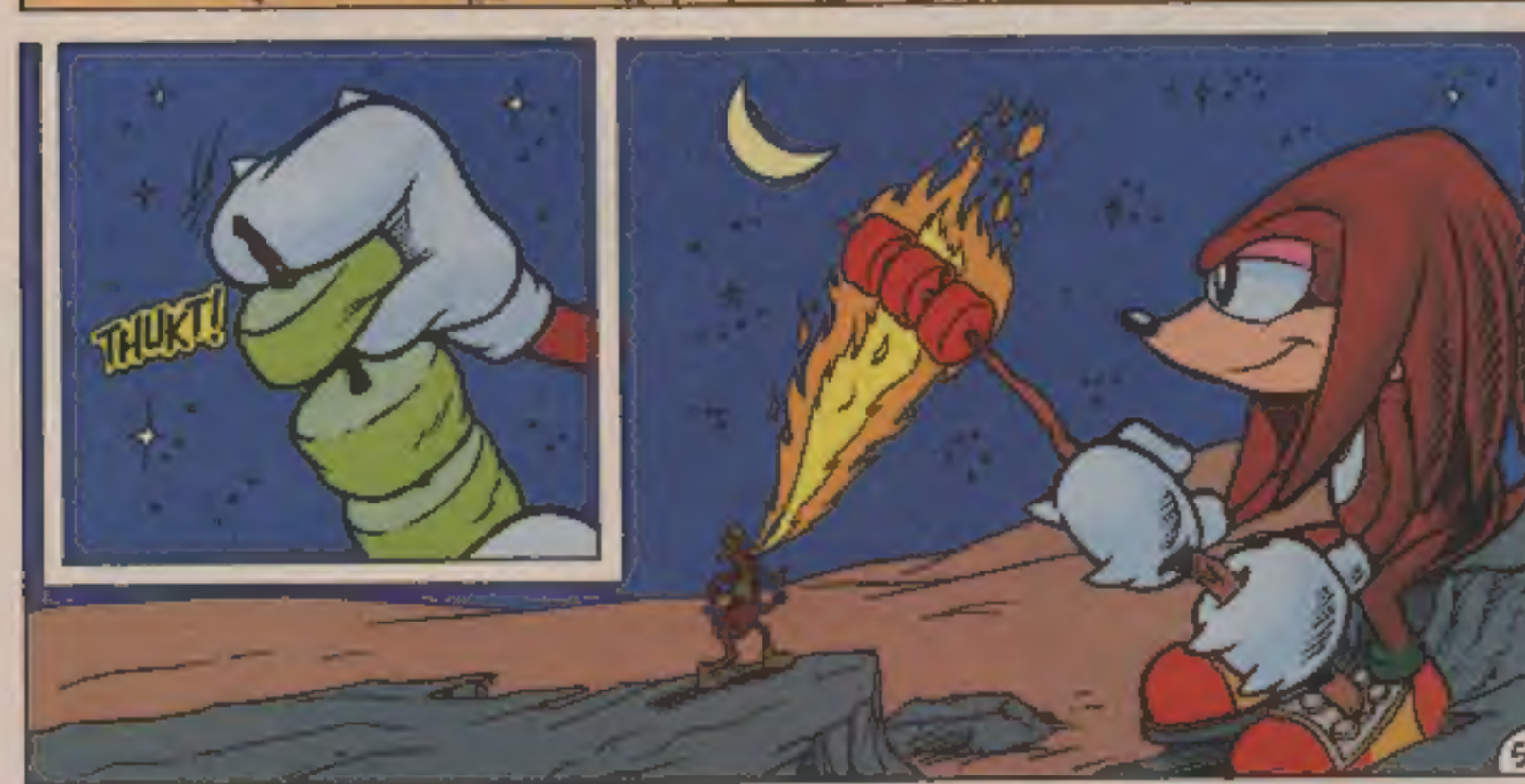
WHY NOT PICK ON A *HOTTER* TAMALE, EH?

ARCHIMEDES!

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE *DOING?*

USING MYSELF AS BAIT...
...AND BEFORE YOU KNOW IT...
PHOOOO DOM!
POIT!
WRRRMMBBBBLLLL...


"...THIS ONE'S ON THE ROCKS!"
KRA-KOOOM!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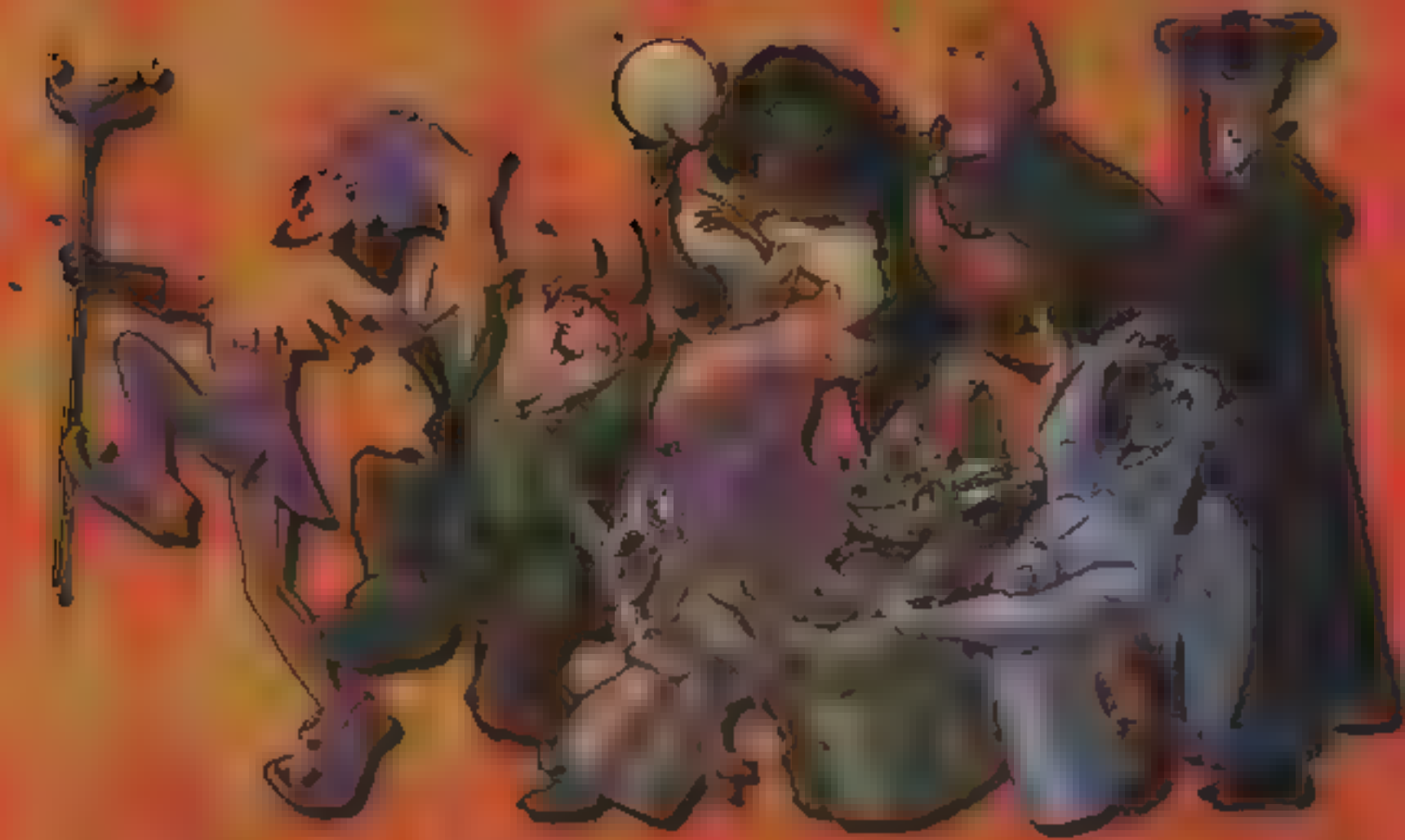

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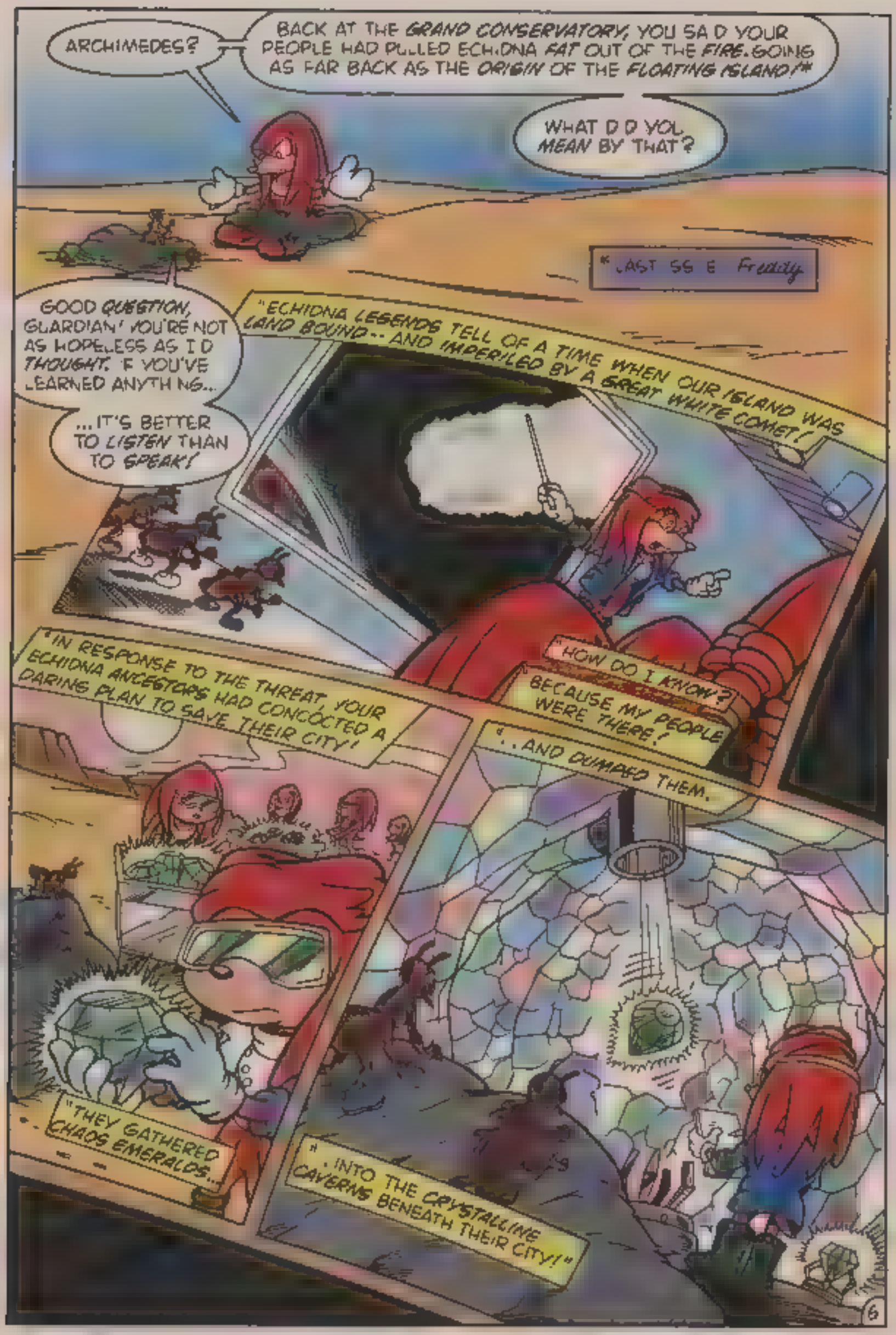
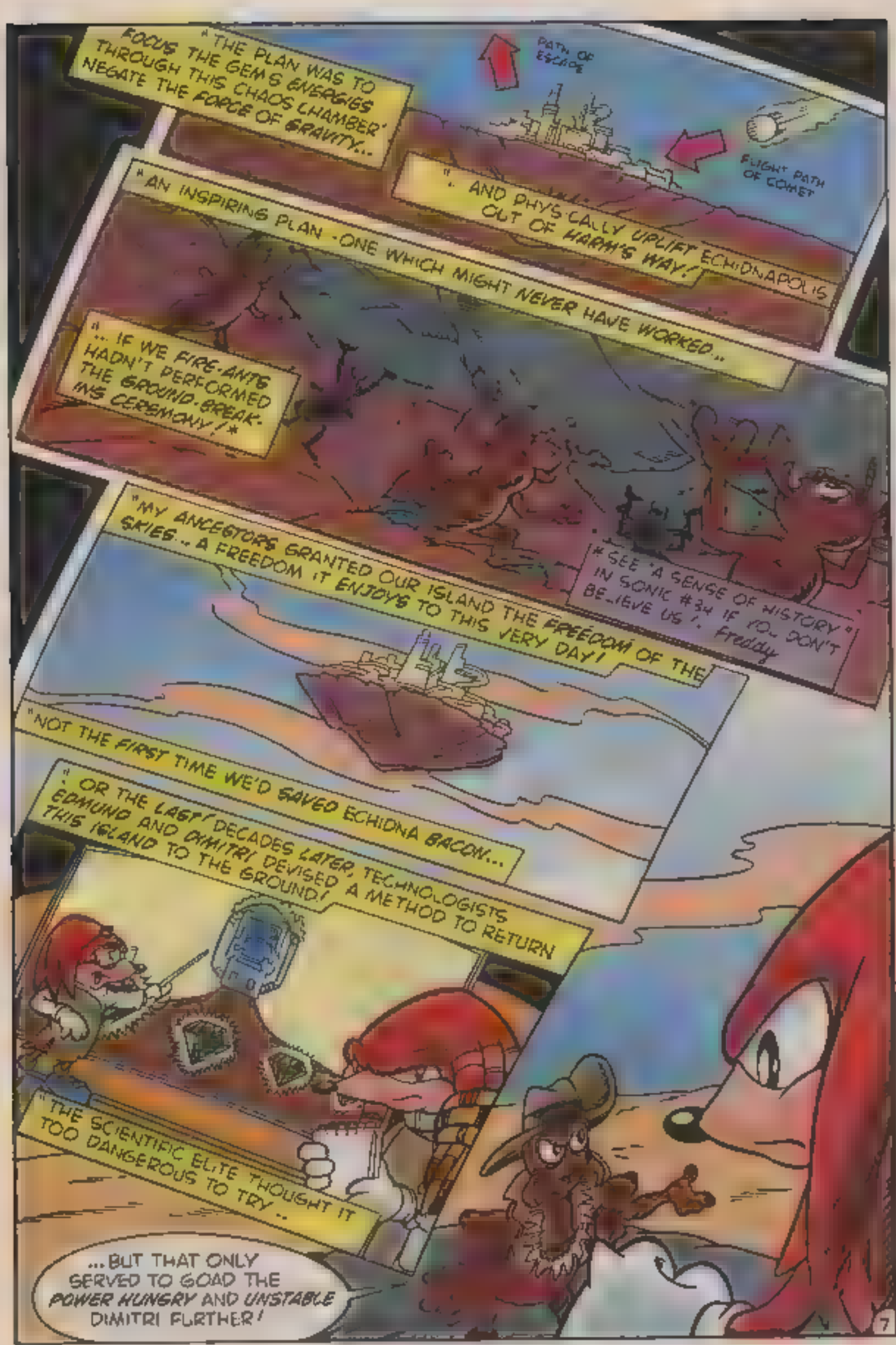

ARCHIMEDES?
BACK AT THE GRAND CONSERVATORY, YOU SAID YOUR PEOPLE HAD PULLED ECHIDNA FAT OUT OF THE FIRE. GOING AS FAR BACK AS THE ORIGIN OF THE FLOATING ISLAND!*
WHAT DID YOU MEAN BY THAT?
* LAST SEE Friday
GOOD QUESTION, GUARDIAN! YOU'RE NOT AS HOPELESS AS I'D THOUGHT. IF YOU'VE LEARNED ANYTHING...
...IT'S BETTER TO LISTEN THAN TO SPEAK!
"ECHIDNA LEGENDS TELL OF A TIME WHEN OUR ISLAND WAS LAND BOUND -- AND IMPERILED BY A GREAT WHITE COMET!
"HOW DO I KNOW?
BECAUSE MY PEOPLE WERE THERE!
"IN RESPONSE TO THE THREAT, YOUR ECHIDNA ANCESTORS HAD CONCOCTED A DARING PLAN TO SAVE THEIR CITY!
"...AND DUMPED THEM.
"THEY GATHERED CHAOS EMERALDS...
"...INTO THE CRYSTALLINE CAVERNS BENEATH THEIR CITY!"
6


"THE PLAN WAS TO FOCUS THE GEM'S ENERGIES THROUGH THIS CHAOS CHAMBER' NEGATE THE FORCE OF GRAVITY...
PATH OF ESCAPE
FLIGHT PATH OF COMET
"... AND PHYSICALLY UPLIFT ECHIDNAPOLIS OUT OF HARM'S WAY!"
"AN INSPIRING PLAN -ONE WHICH MIGHT NEVER HAVE WORKED..."
"... IF WE FIRE-ANTS HADN'T PERFORMED THE GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY!*
* SEE "A SENSE OF HISTORY" IN SONIC #34 IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE US! - Freddy
"MY ANCESTORS GRANTED OUR ISLAND THE FREEDOM OF THE SKIES... A FREEDOM IT ENJOYS TO THIS VERY DAY!
"NOT THE FIRST TIME WE'D SAVED ECHIDNA BACON...
"... OR THE LAST! DECADES LATER, TECHNOLOGISTS EDMUND AND DIMITRI DEVISED A METHOD TO RETURN THIS ISLAND TO THE GROUND!
"THE SCIENTIFIC ELITE THOUGHT IT TOO DANGEROUS TO TRY..
...BUT THAT ONLY SERVED TO GOAD THE POWER HUNGRY AND UNSTABLE DIMITRI FURTHER!

DRIVEN *MAD* BY HIS OWN *AMBITION*, HE USED THE *CHAOS SYPHON* HE AND HIS BROTHER HAD DESIGNED. T DRA NED THE POWER OF *ELEVEN* OF THE ISLAND'S *TWELVE EMERALDS* NTO *HIMSELF*...

"...AND RAISED A GREAT *DARK TOWER* AS A *MONUMENT* TO HIS *TREACHERY!*

"EATING AWAY AT IT'S FOUNDATION, MY PEOPLE *COLLAPSED* THE TOWER W THIN ITSELF--*BURYING* DIMITRI BENEATH *MOUNT FATE* FOR *ALL TIMES*...

".. OR SO WE *THOUGHT!*

"SINCE THEN, WE'VE ALWAYS *BEEN* THERE, *BEHIND THE SCENES*, LENDING A *HELPING HAND* AS *NEEDED*..

". FROM *GENERATION*..."

.. TO *GENERATION!*

THAT'S WHY I D BEEN TESTING YOU--TO MAKE SURE YOU'RE UP TO THE *TASKS* THAT LIE *AHEAD!*

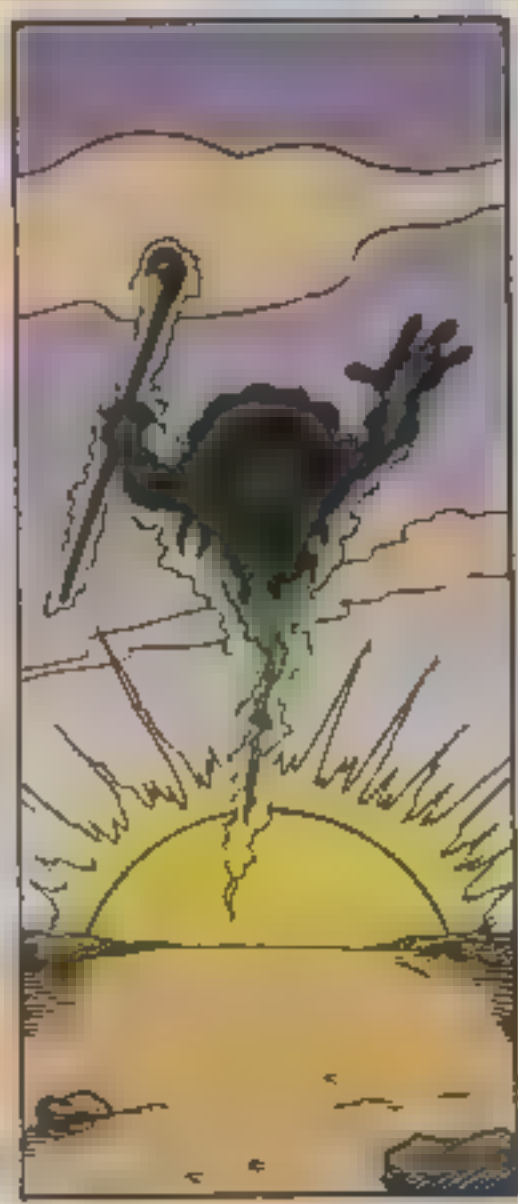
THEN DIMITRI *RESURFACED* AS *ENERJAK*- CAPTURED US..

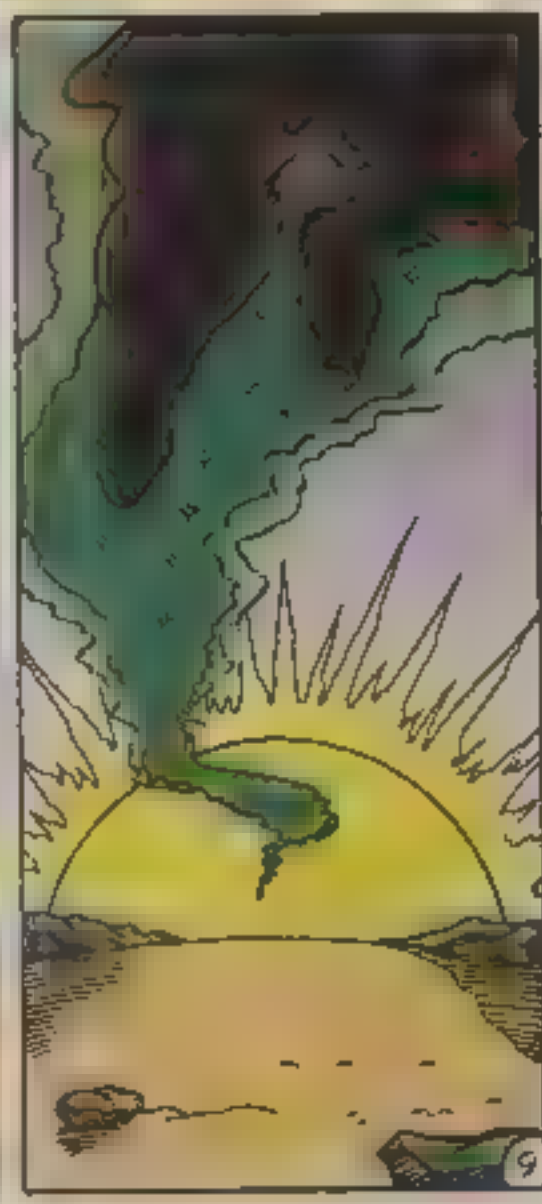
... AND DUMPED US HERE OUT OF SPITE!

DIM TRI-- ENERJAK-- WAS THE MOST FEARED MENACE IN RECORDED HISTORY...

...AND HE'S HAD OVER A THOUSAND YEARS TO PLAN HIS REVENGE!

WE'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO THE GRAND CONSERVATORY...





EXCELLENT!

WITH THE *GUARDIAN* AND THE *FIRE-ANT* DISPATCHED...

...AND THEIR ALLIES, THE APTLY-NAMED *CHAOTIX*--"INDISPOSED"...

...I MAY EFFECT MY HOMECOMING *UNDISTURBED!*

AT LONG, LONG LAST--THE *FORMER SITE OF ECHIDNAPOLIS!*

OR SHOULD I SAY...

...THE ONCE AND FUTURE SITE OF NEKRONOPOLIS!?

HAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAHAH

THOK!

RAMMMBBLL...!

SO WE WERE HIKING TO THIS REALLY COOL CAMPSITE FOR A BOWL OF CAP'N CRUNCH!!

WHEN WE CAME TO THIS WEIRD LOOKING BRIDGE!

THEN THE CAP'N DROPPED IN AND YELLED "JUST THINK OF WHAT YOU WANT AND GO FOR IT!"

GOTTA HAVE THAT CRUNCH!

YUM!

ALL MINE!

HE THOUGHT OF THAT SWEET DELICIOUS CRUNCH GOT US RIGHT OVER THAT BRIDGE!

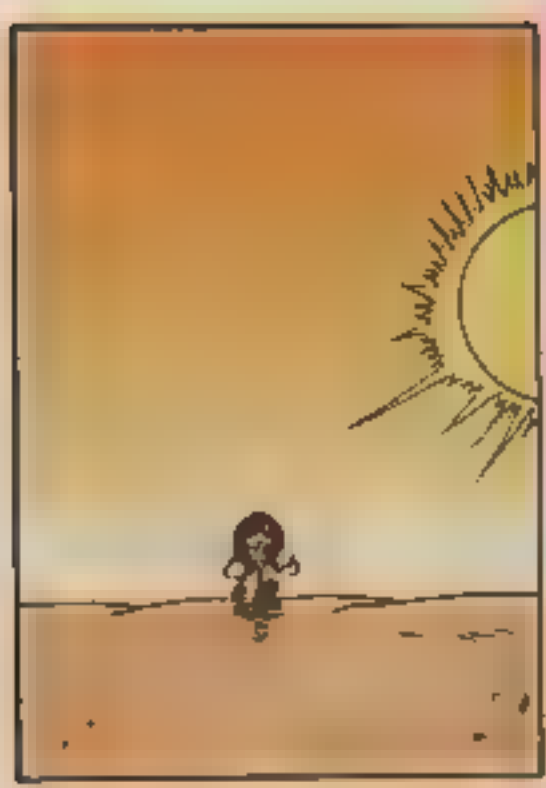
THAT'S HOW WE GOT TO OUR AWESOME CAMPSITE AND OUR HUGE BOWLS OF CAP'N CRUNCH® CEREAL!

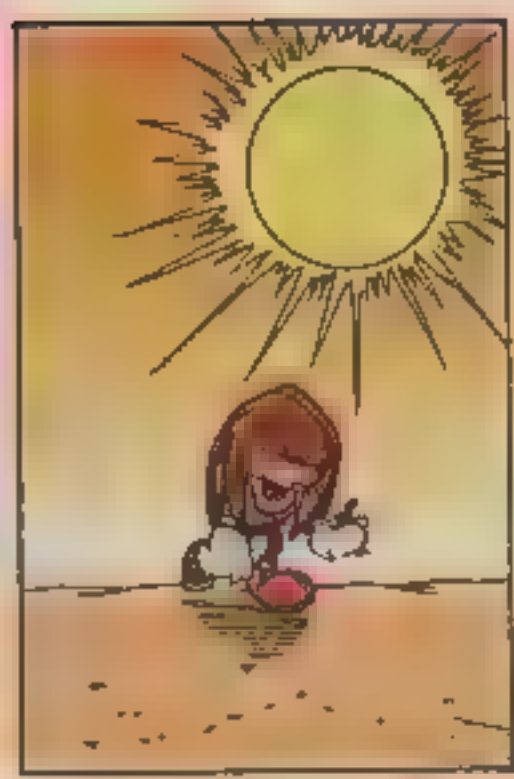
YOU AND THE CAP'N MAKE IT HAPPEN!

CRUNCH!

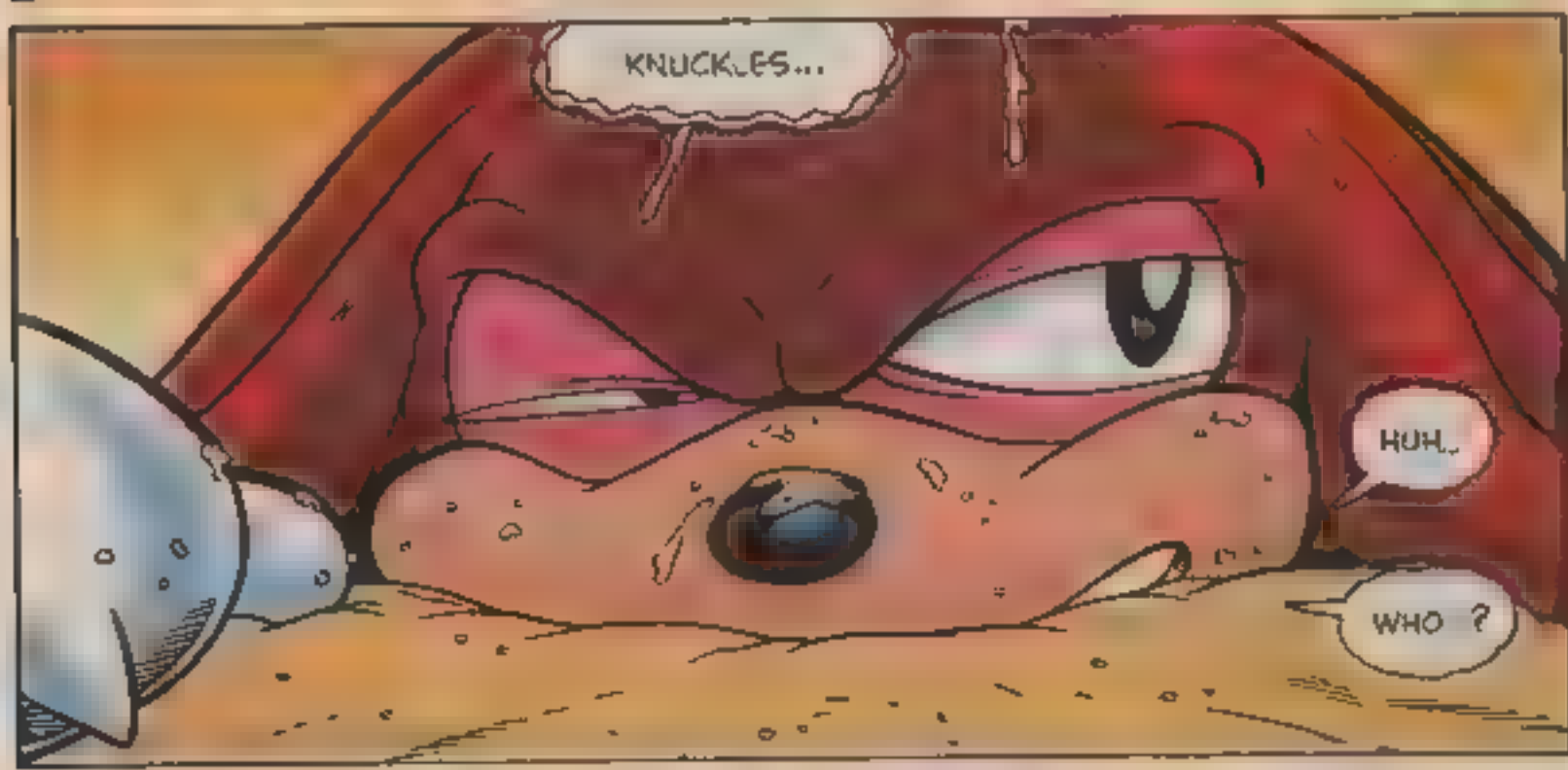
CAP'N CRUNCH

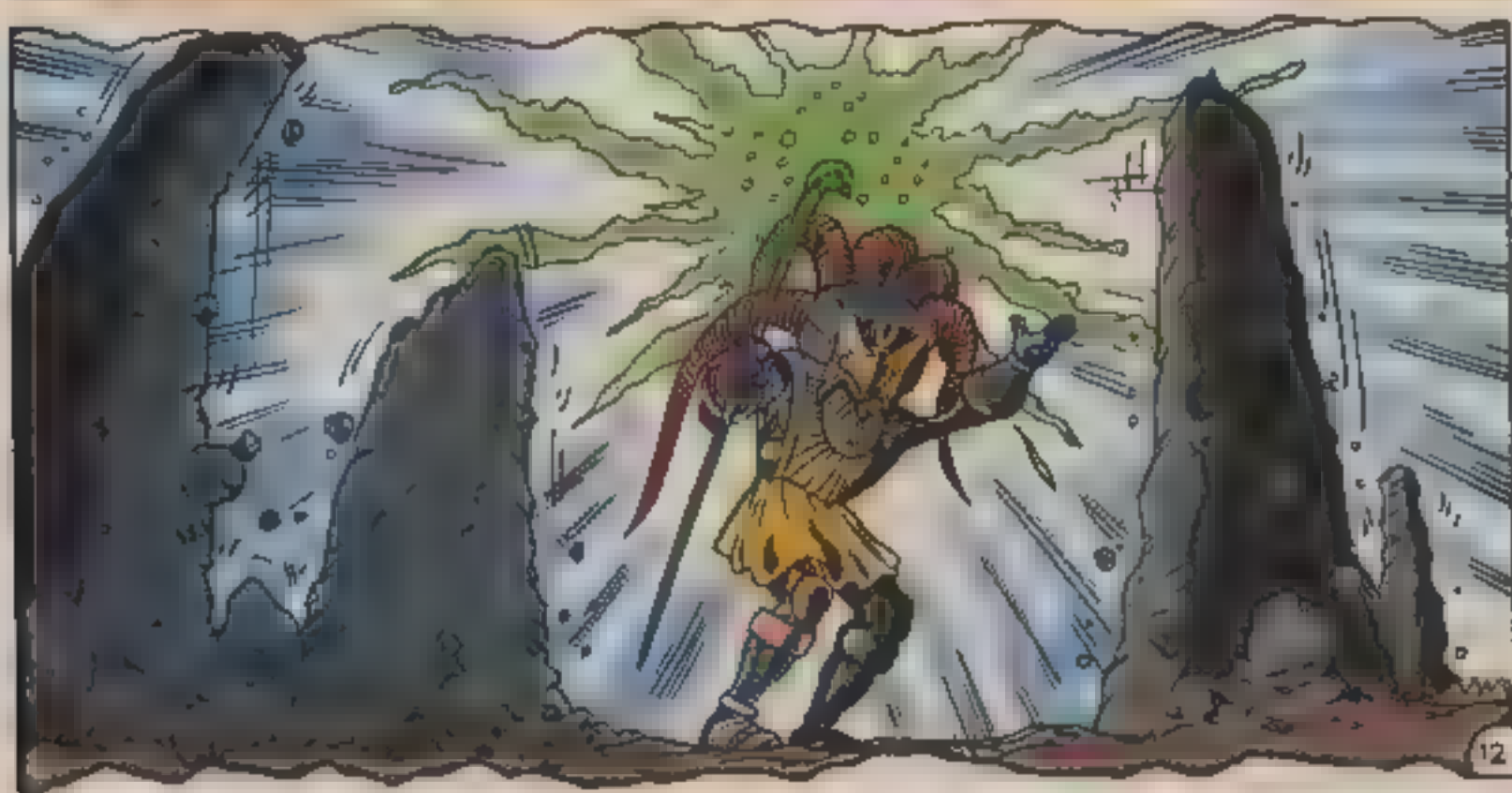
HAHAHAH





WHUUUMPH!


KNUCKLES...
HUH...
WHO ?



DAD?

YOU MUST BE *BRAVE*, MY SON - YOU MUST BE *VERY* BRAVE!

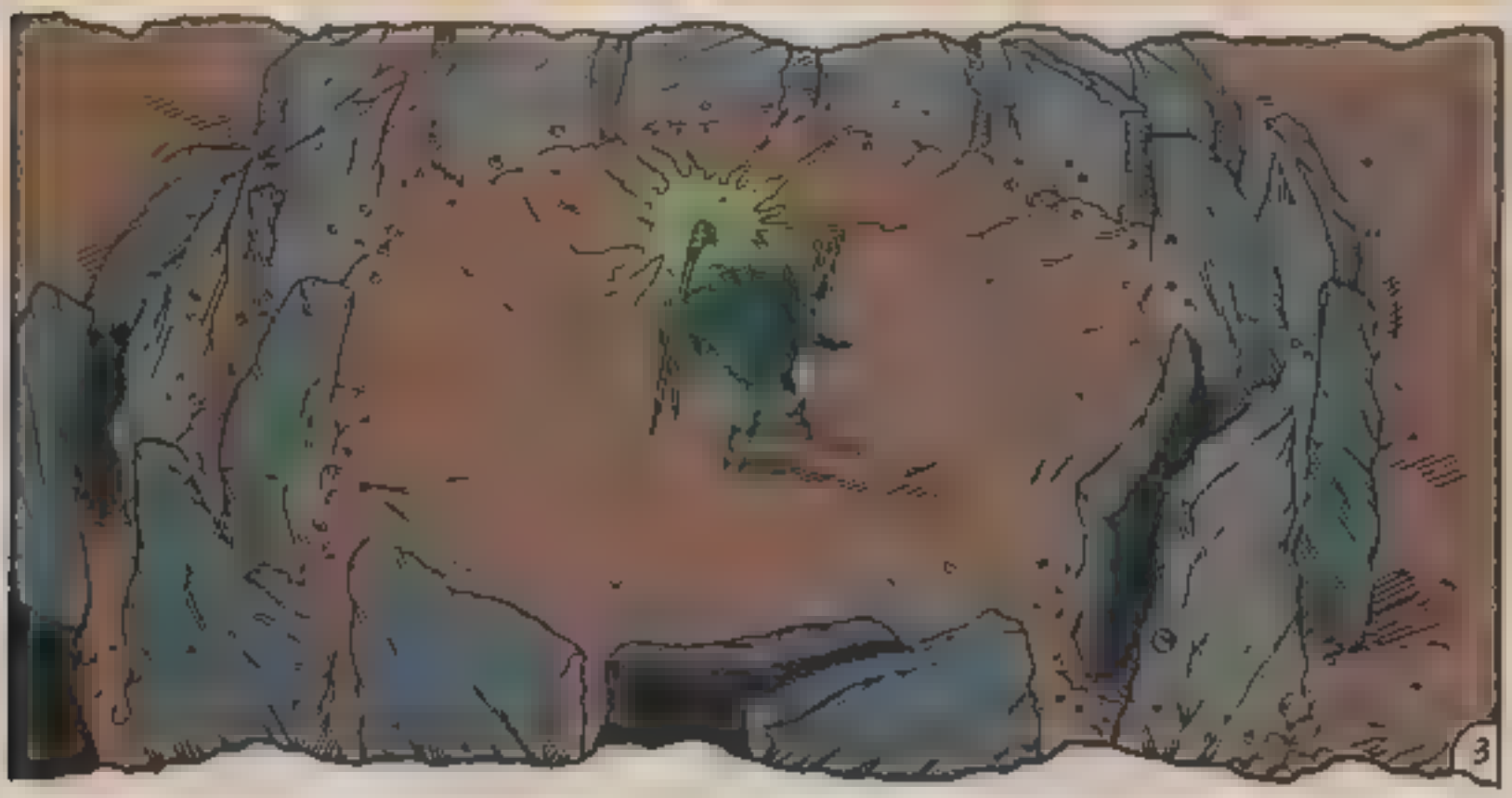
THE PATH WHICH LIES *AHEAD* IS A *LONG* AND *DIFFICULT* ONE!

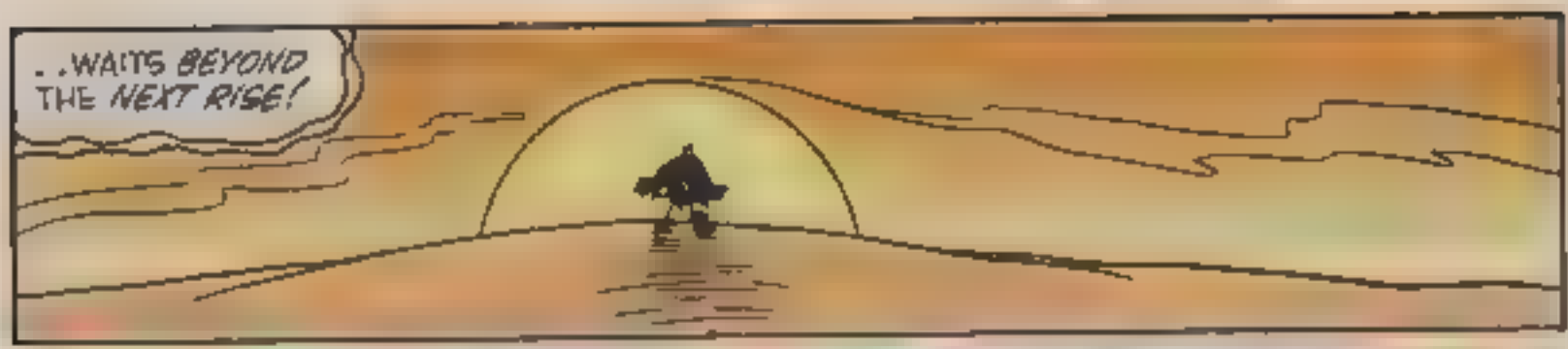
ENERJAK *CAN* BE *DEFEATED!* THE *KEY* TO YOUR *PRESENT PERIL* IS IN OUR *PAST!*

YOU'VE COME SO *FAR*...

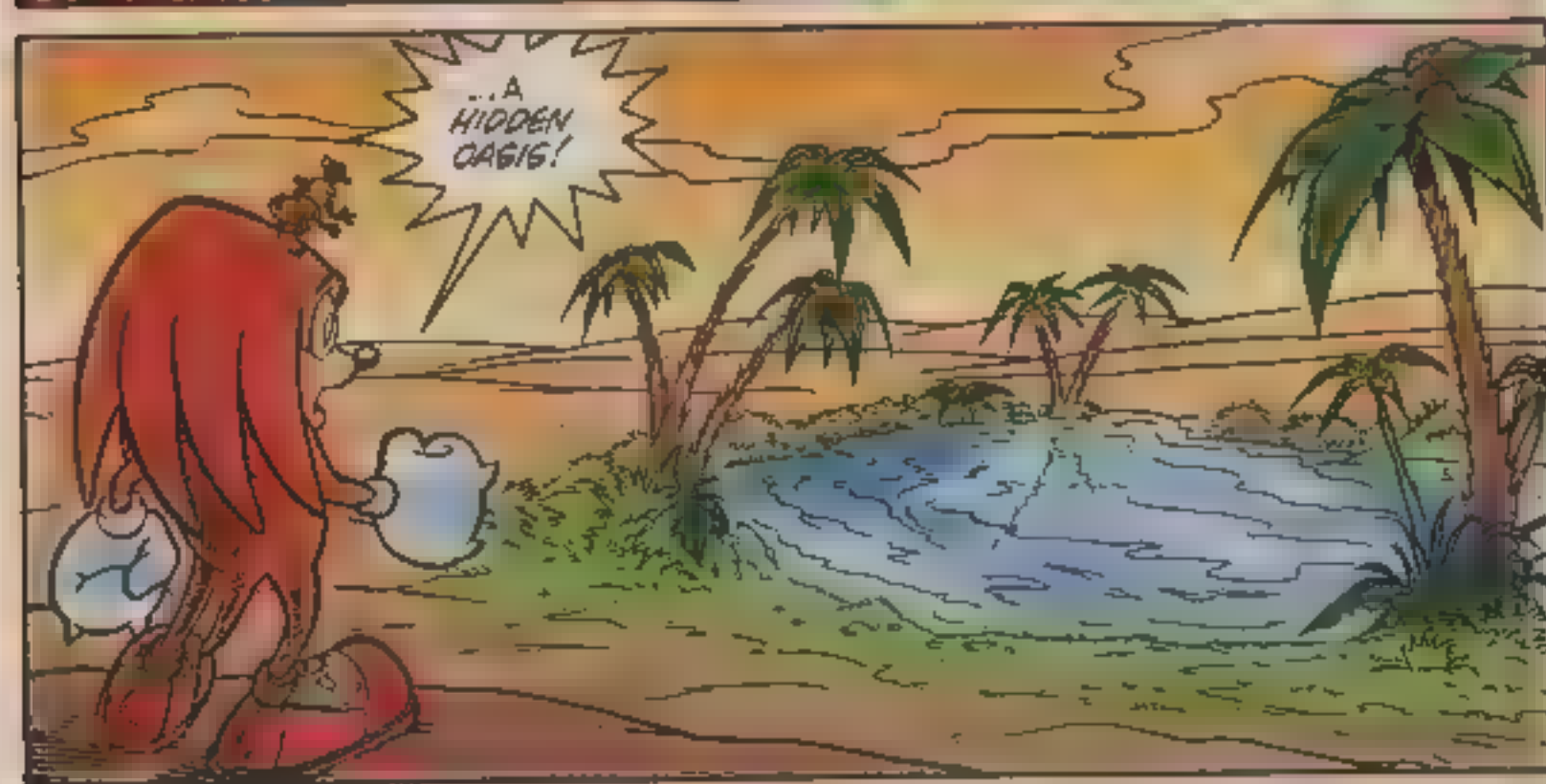
.. *TOO* FAR TO *SURRENDER* TO *DESPAIR!*

ESPECIALLY WHEN *SALVATION*...




..WAITS BEYOND THE NEXT RISE!

I DON T BELIEVE T..


..A HIDDEN OASIS!

SPA-LOOOSH!

SPLASH!

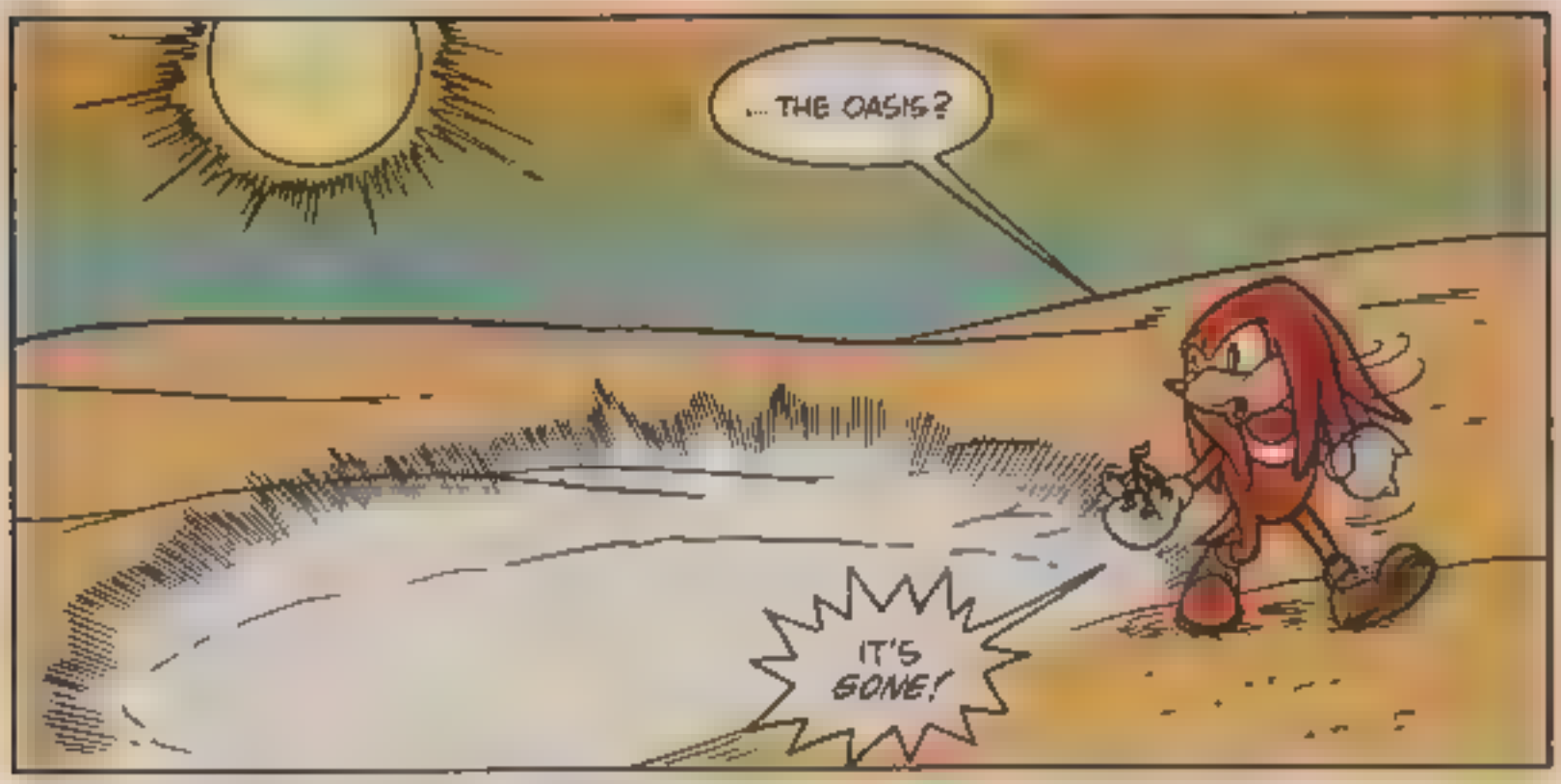
THAT'S ENOUGH REST AND RECREATION FOR *ONE* DAY, GUARDIAN!

WE WERE LUCKY TO *FIND* THIS PLACE!

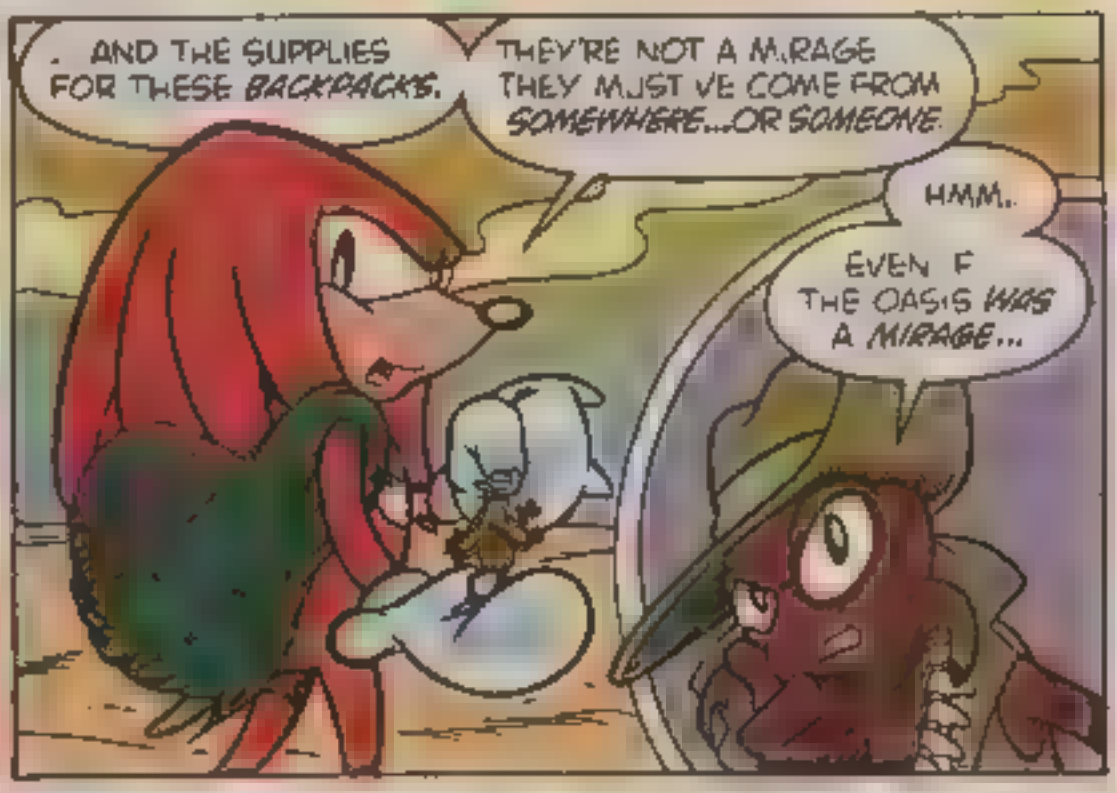
NO

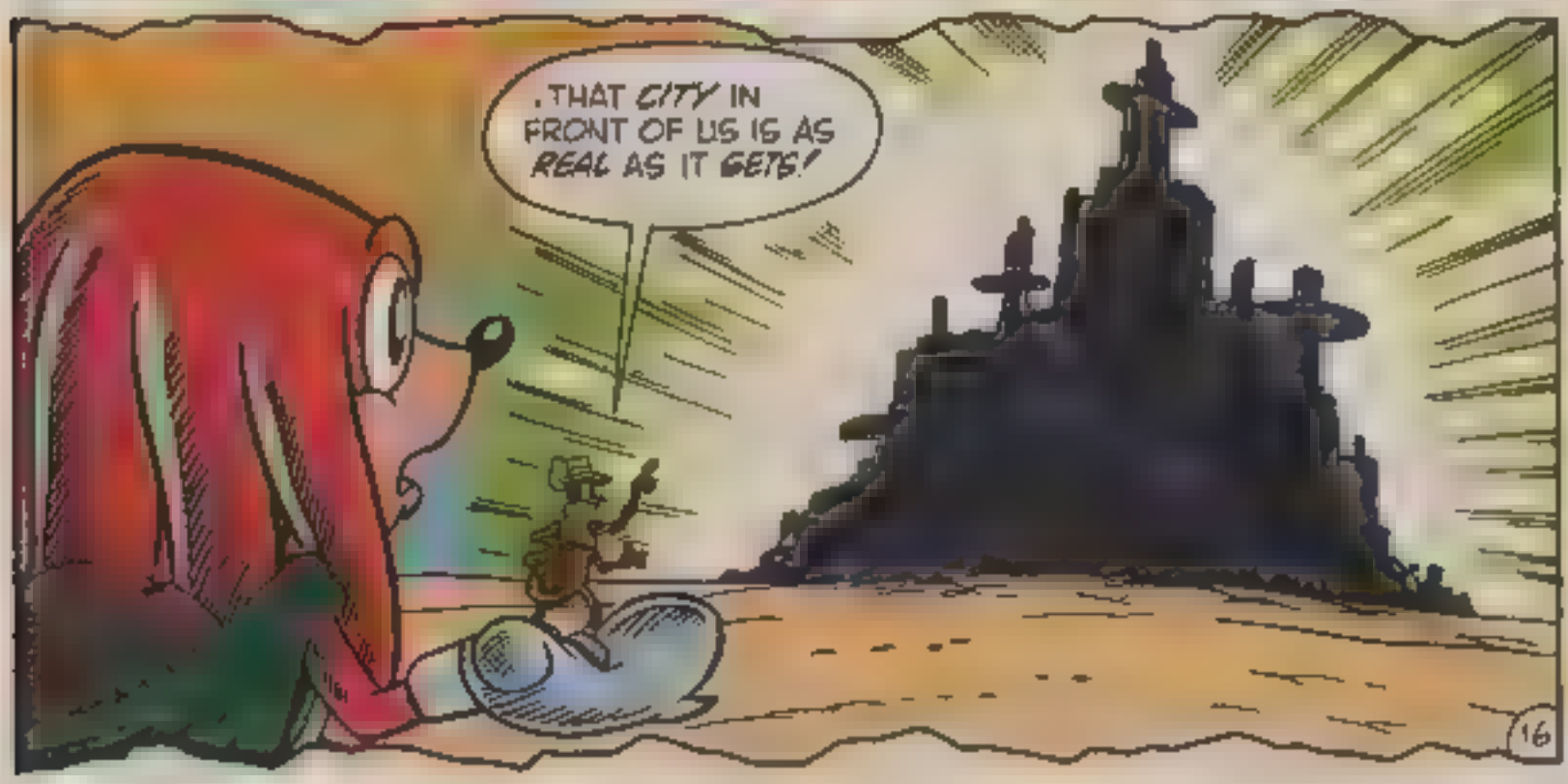
...*LUCK* HAD *NOTHING* TO DO WITH IT!

SOMEONE OR SOME*THING*... MEANT FOR US TO REACH...

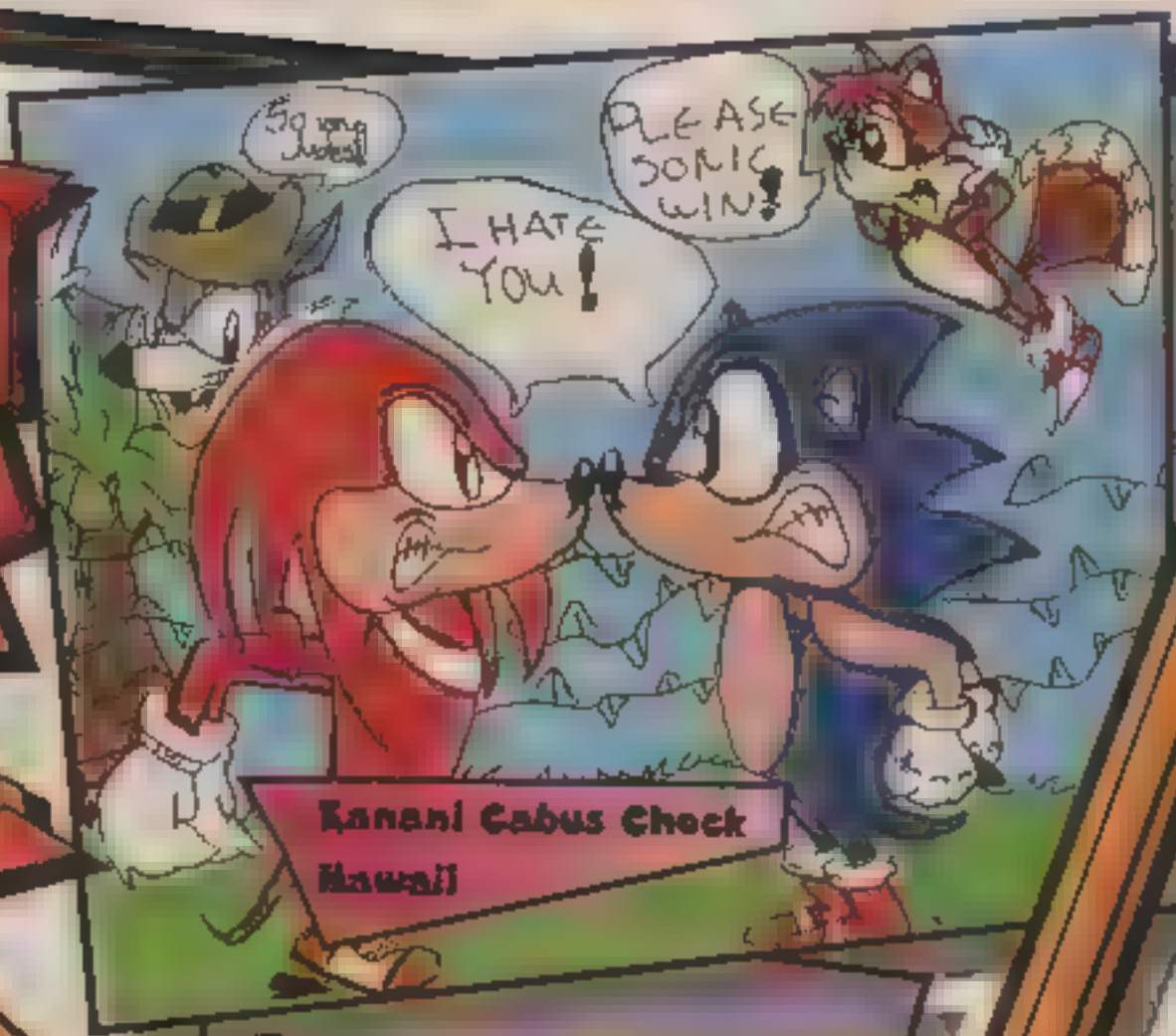

...THE OASIS?
IT'S GONE!

BUT IT HAD TO BE THERE!
THAT WOULD EXPLAIN THOSE HOT PEPPERS I WAS EATING..


..AND THE SUPPLIES FOR THESE BACKPACKS.
THEY'RE NOT A MIRAGE. THEY MUST VE COME FROM SOMEWHERE...OR SOMEONE.
HMM..
EVEN F THE OASIS WAS A MIRAGE...


..THAT CITY IN FRONT OF US IS AS REAL AS IT GETS!

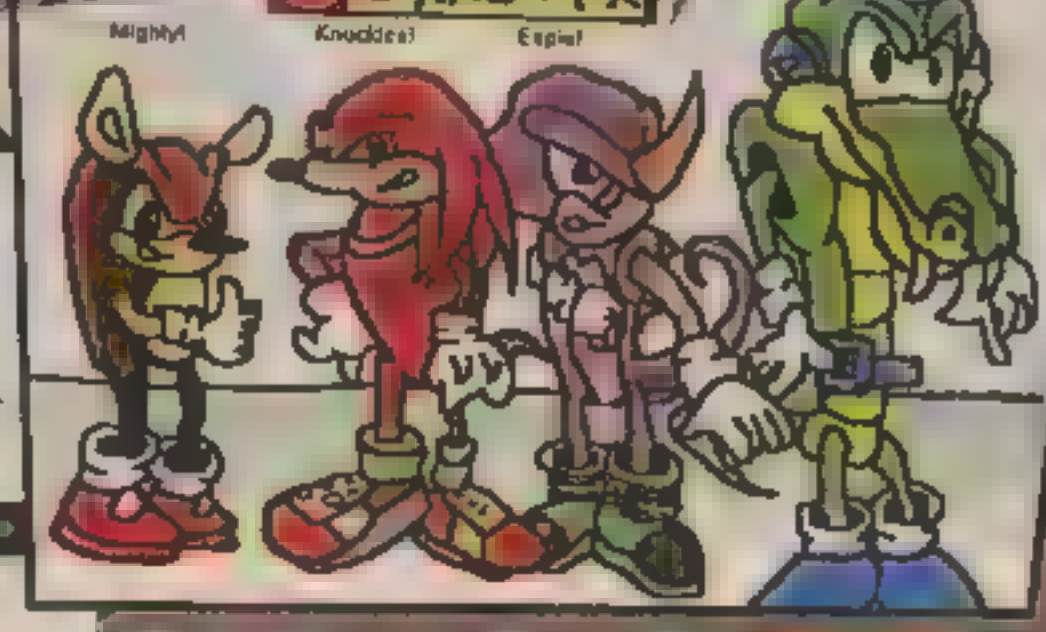
KNUCKLES

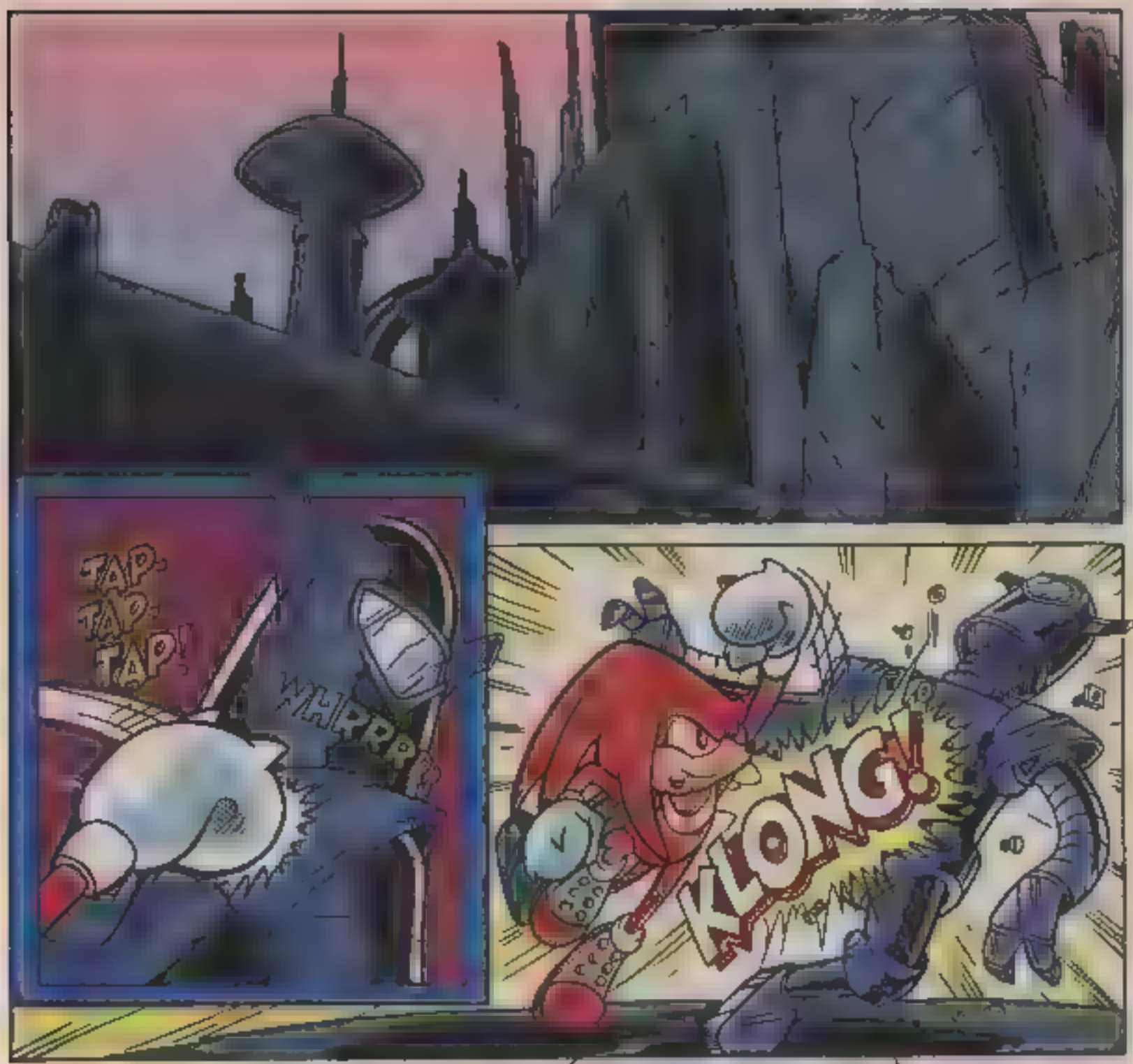


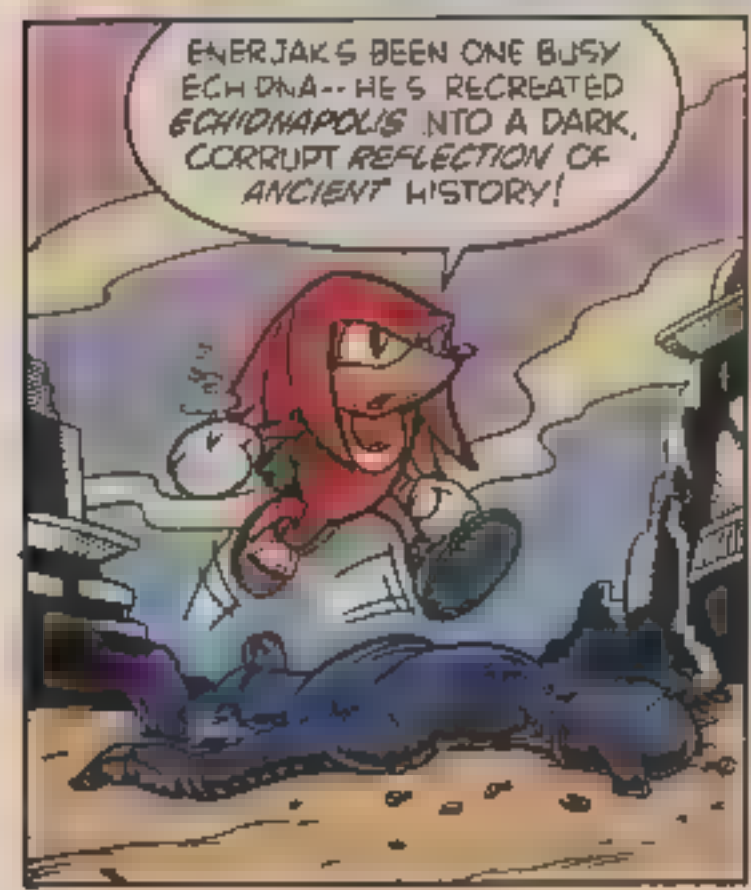
Kanani Cabus Chock
Hawaii

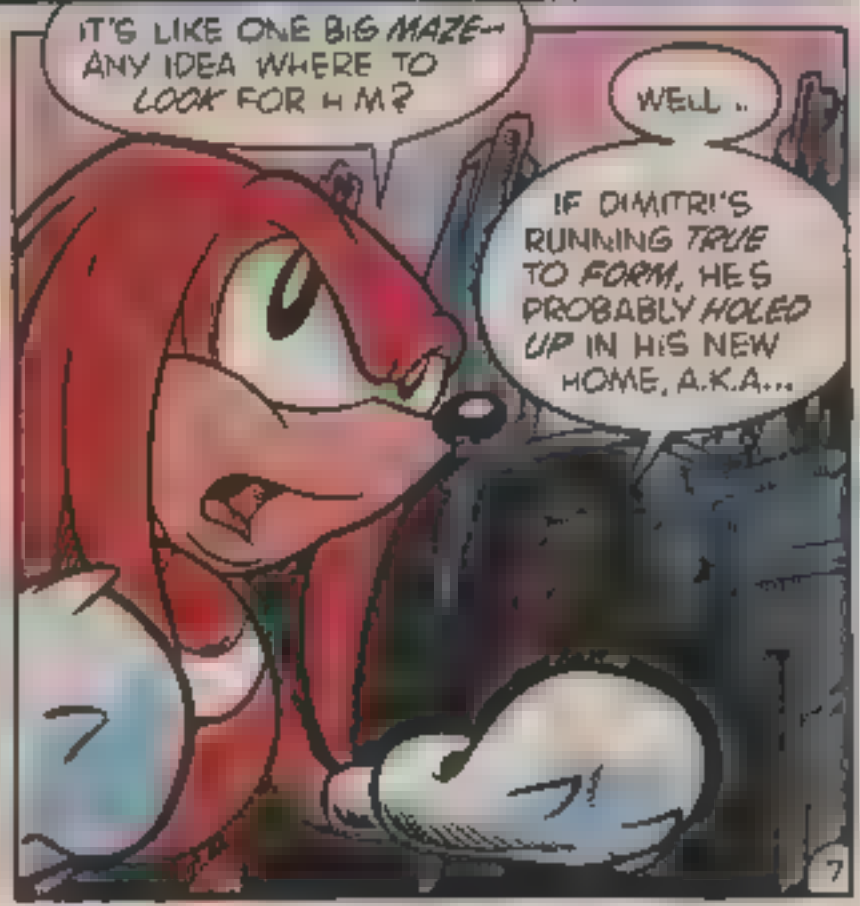
Jose Gl Corria
Salinas, CA

Jovian Ho
Herndon, VA

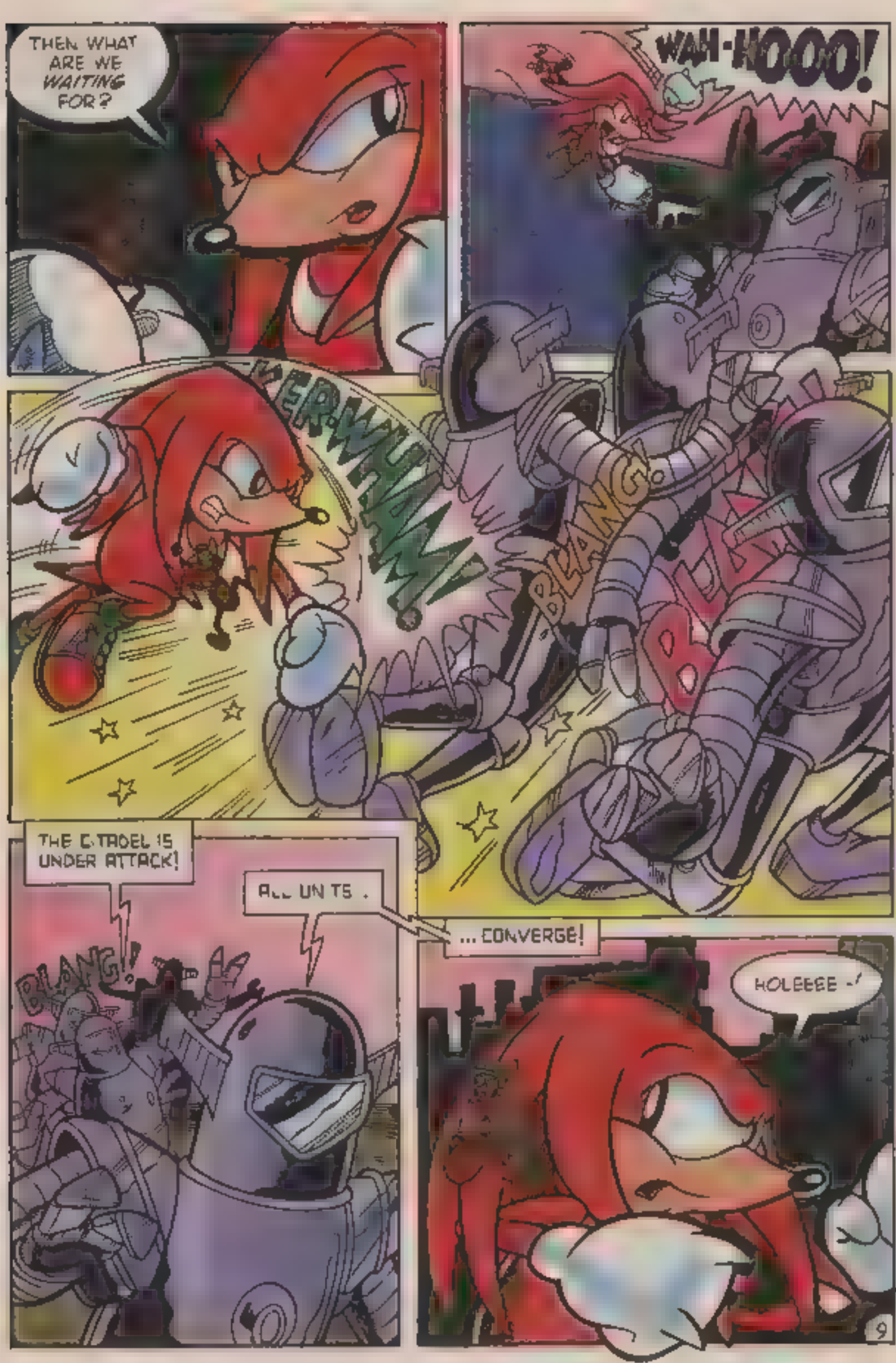


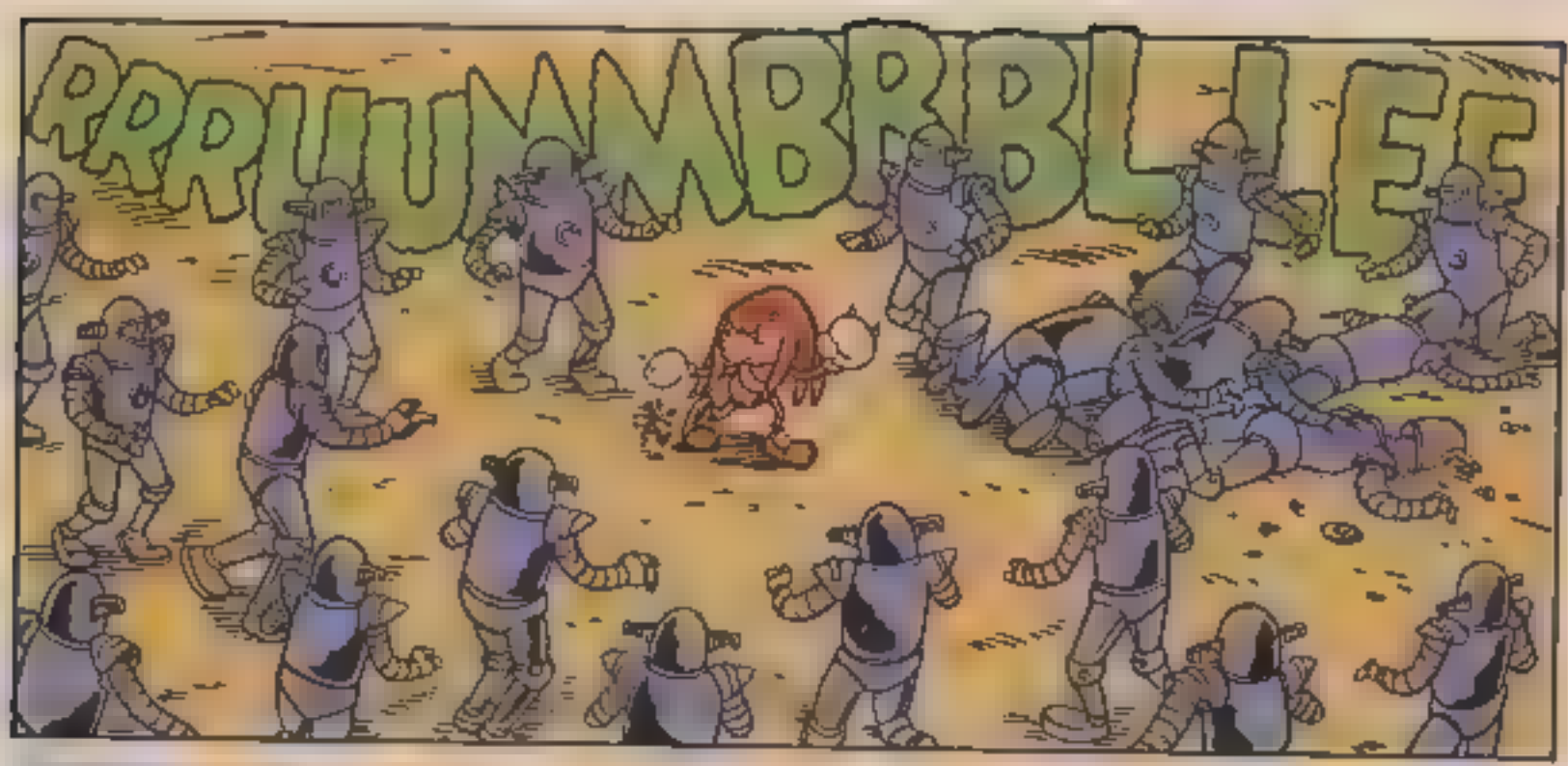

TAP, TAP, TAP!
WHRRR
KLONG!

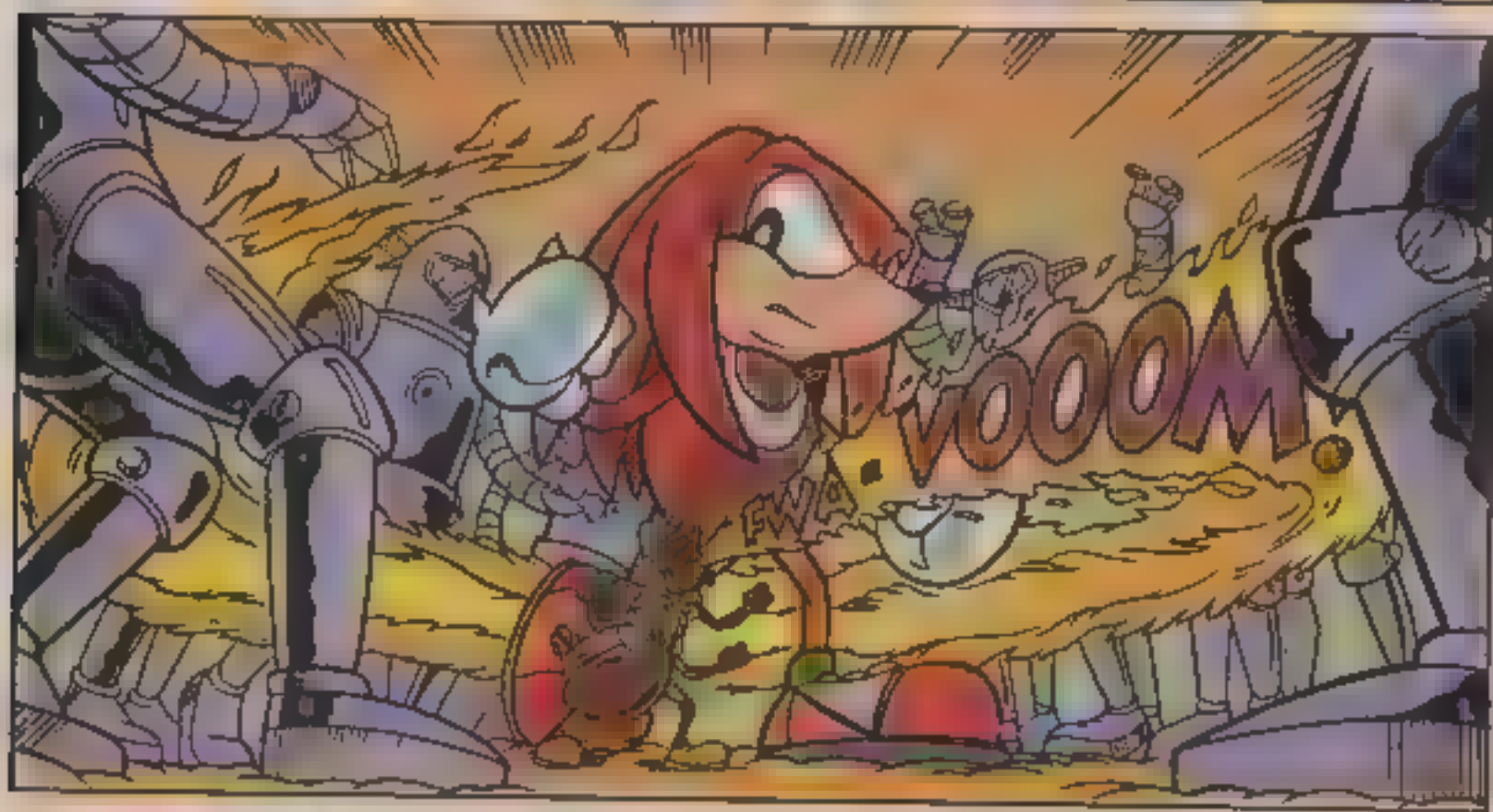

ENERJAK'S BEEN ONE BUSY ECHIDNA-- HE'S RECREATED *ECHIDNAPOLIS* INTO A DARK, CORRUPT *REFLECTION* OF *ANCIENT* HISTORY!

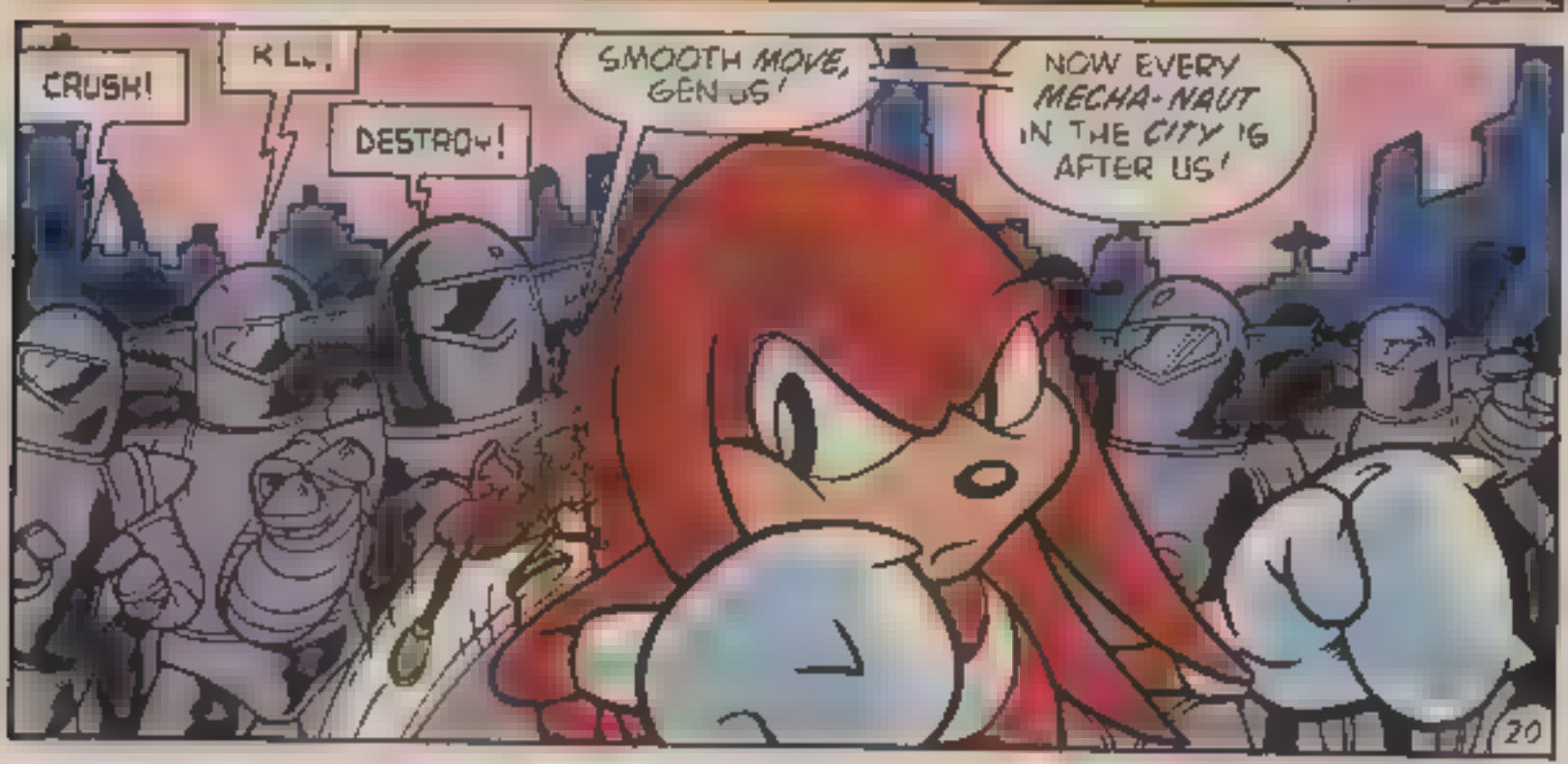

IT'S LIKE ONE BIG *MAZE*-- ANY IDEA WHERE TO *LOOK* FOR HIM?
WELL..
IF DIMITRI'S RUNNING *TRUE* TO *FORM*, HE'S PROBABLY *HOLED UP* IN HIS NEW HOME, A.K.A...

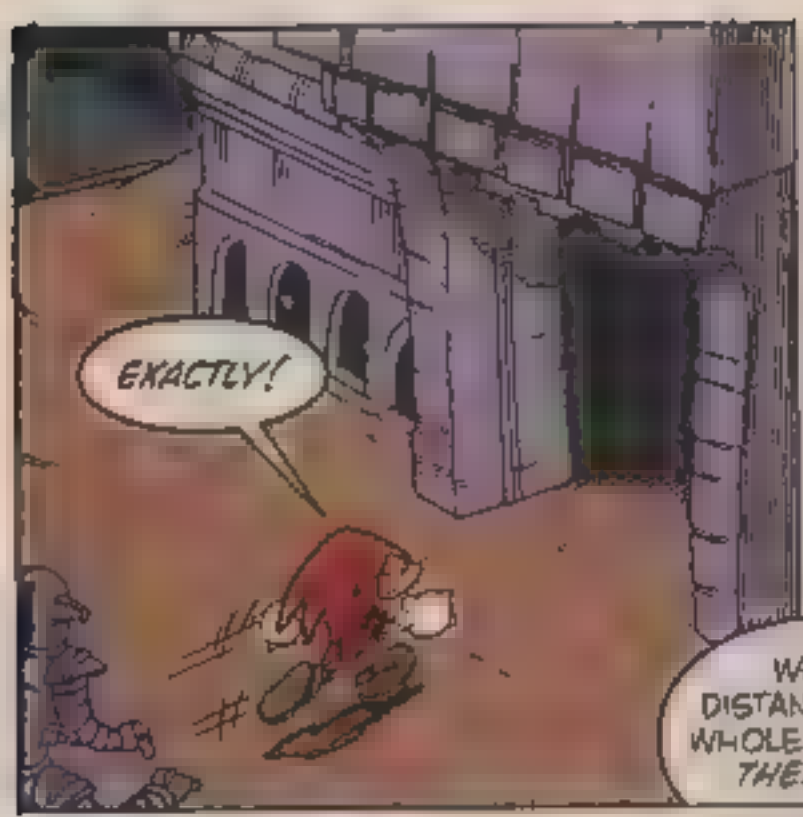
O-OH...E
O-EEE-OH...EEEE
...ENERJAK'S CITADEL!

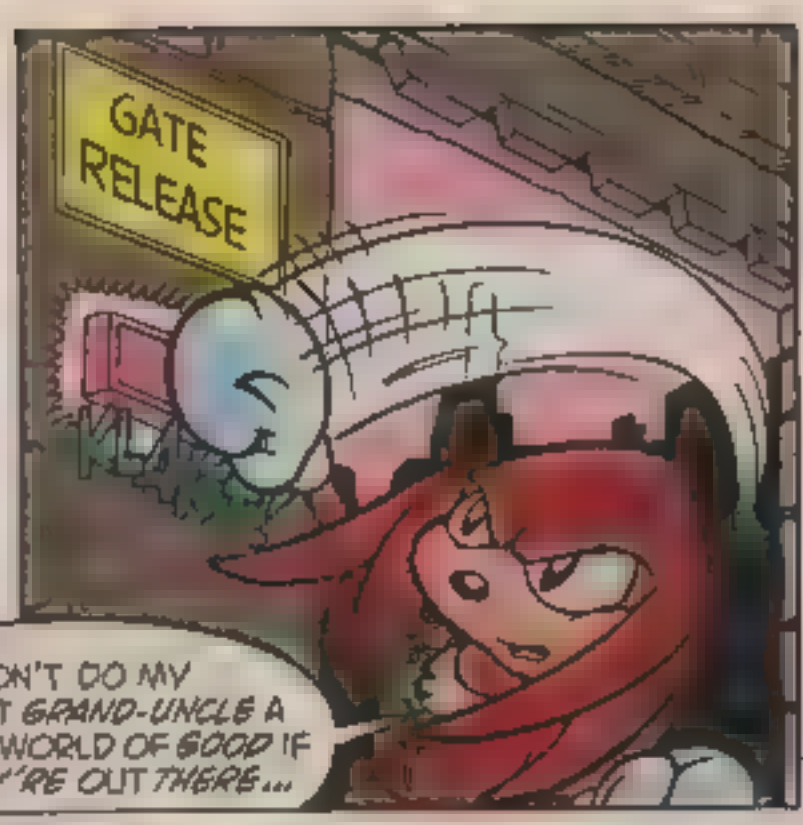

THEN WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
WAH-HOOO!
YERWUHWHWHW!
BLANG
BLANG!
THE CITADEL IS UNDER ATTACK!
ALL UNITS .
... CONVERGE!
HOLEEEE -!

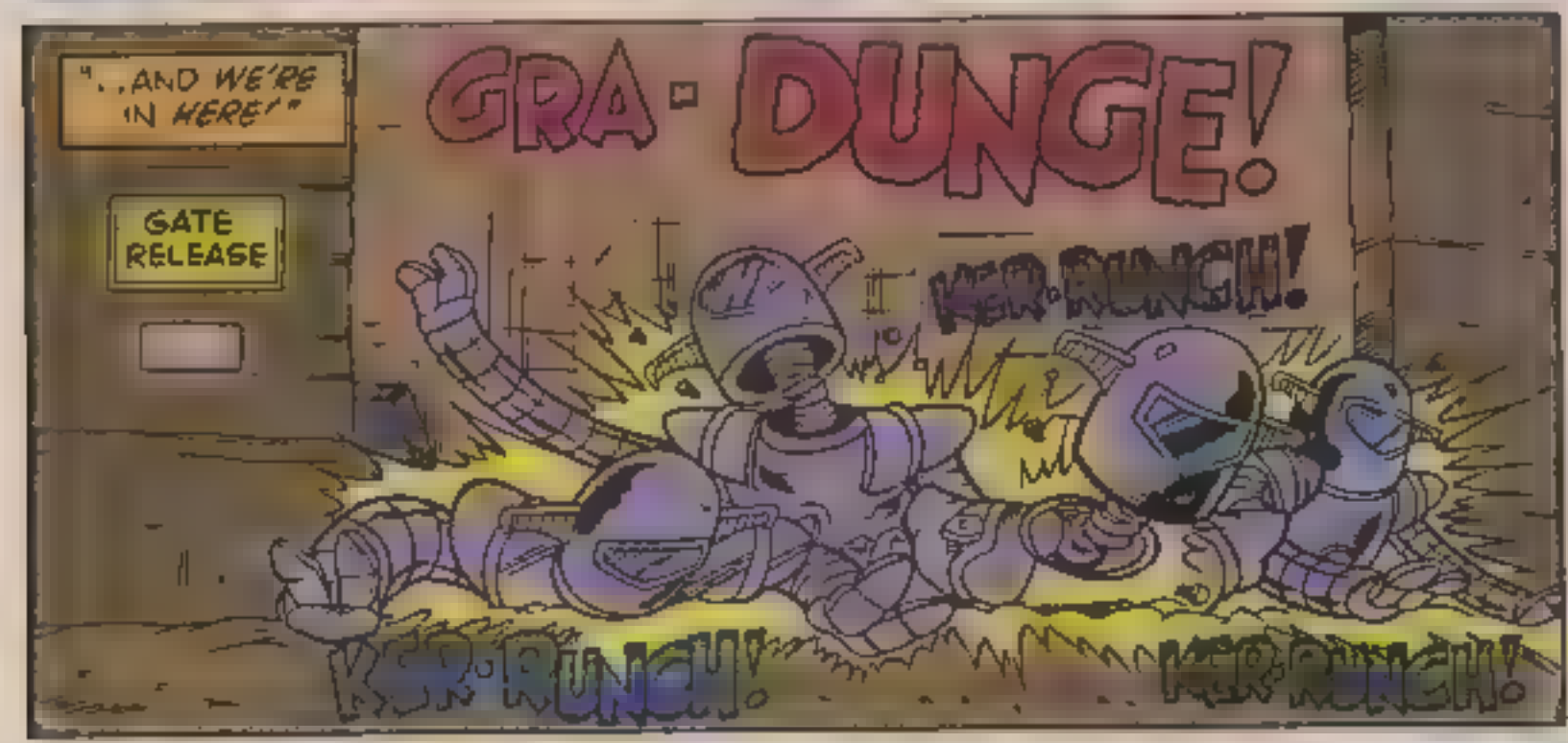

RRRUUMMBRRBLLEE


VOOOM!
FWA

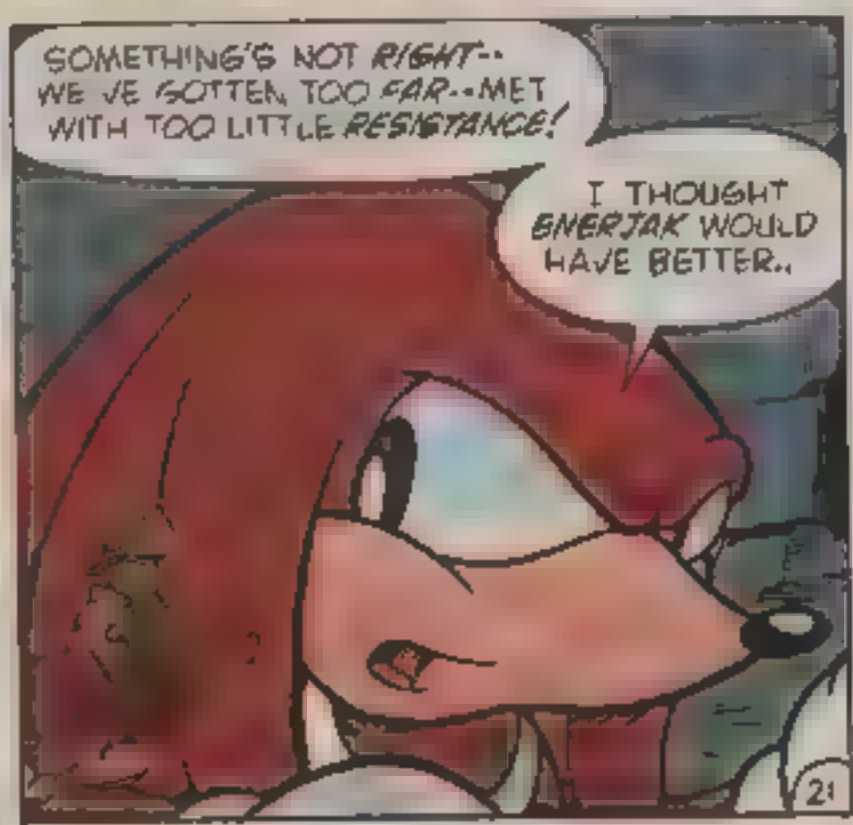

CRUSH!
KL.
DESTROY!
SMOOTH MOVE, GENIUS!
NOW EVERY MECHA-NAUT IN THE CITY IS AFTER US!


EXACTLY!

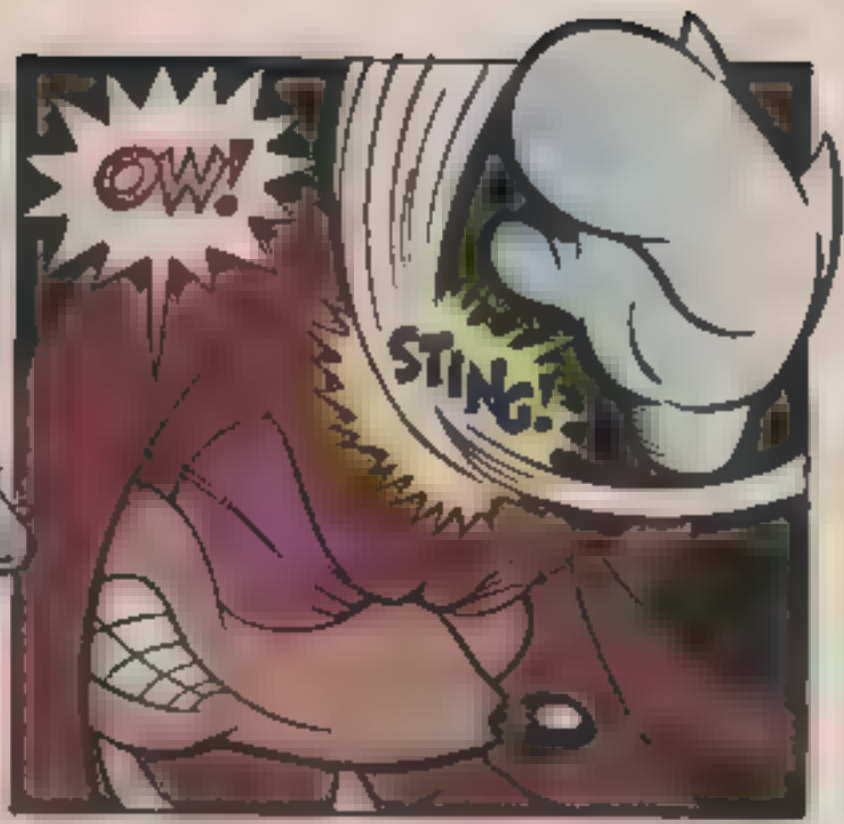

GATE RELEASE
WON'T DO MY DISTANT GRAND-UNCLE A WHOLE WORLD OF GOOD IF THEY'RE OUT THERE...

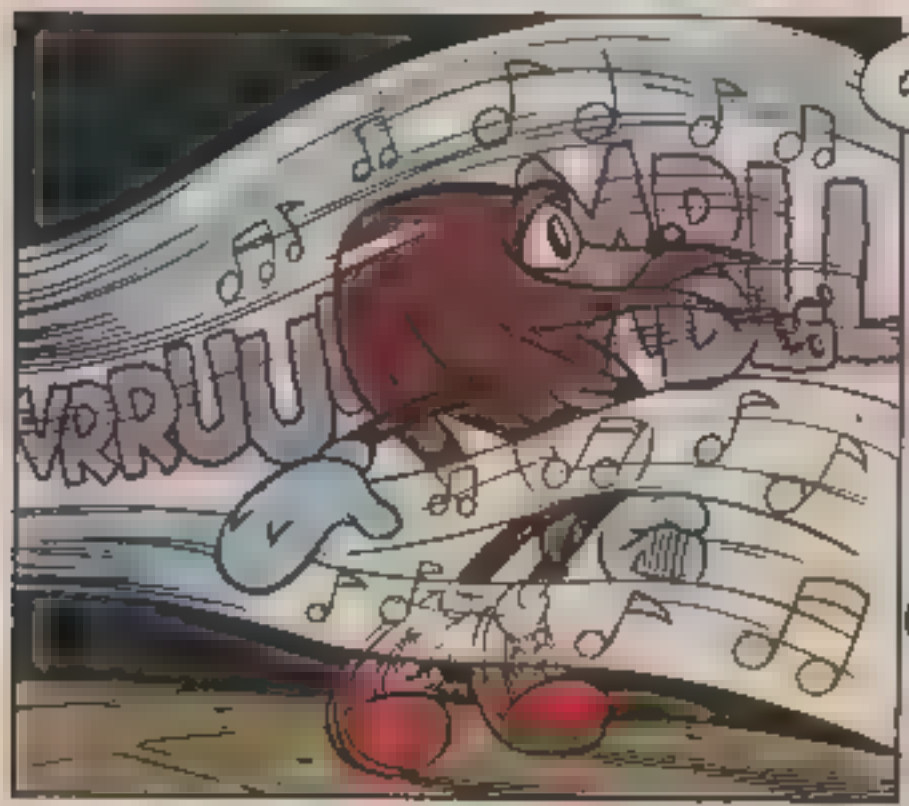

"...AND WE'RE IN HERE!"
GATE RELEASE
GRA-DUNGE!
KER-RUNCH!
KER-RUNCH!
KER-RUNCH!

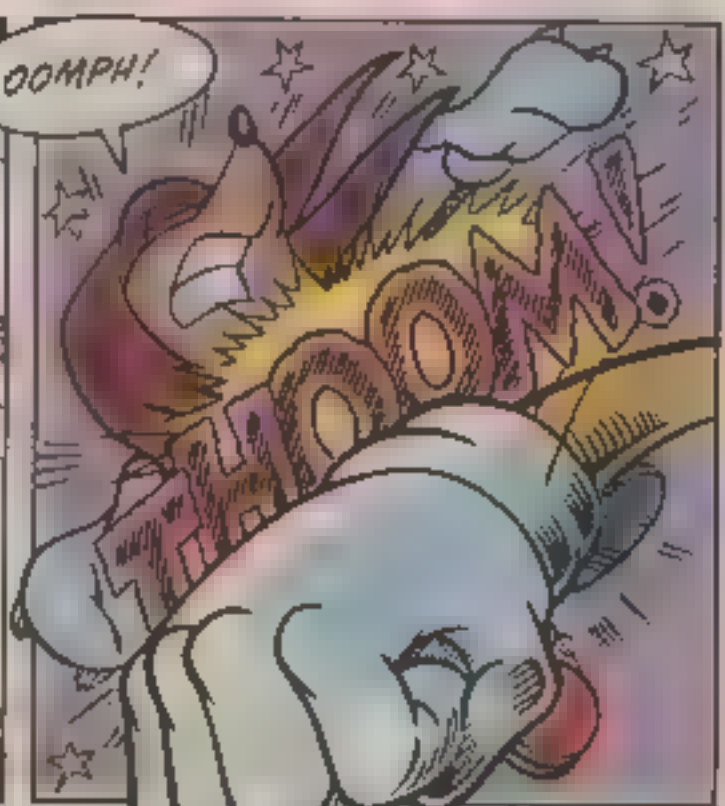
whew!
NEXT TIME YOU PULL A CRAZY STUNT LIKE THAT...
...GIVE AN ANT A LITTLE WARNING FIRST!
SORRY

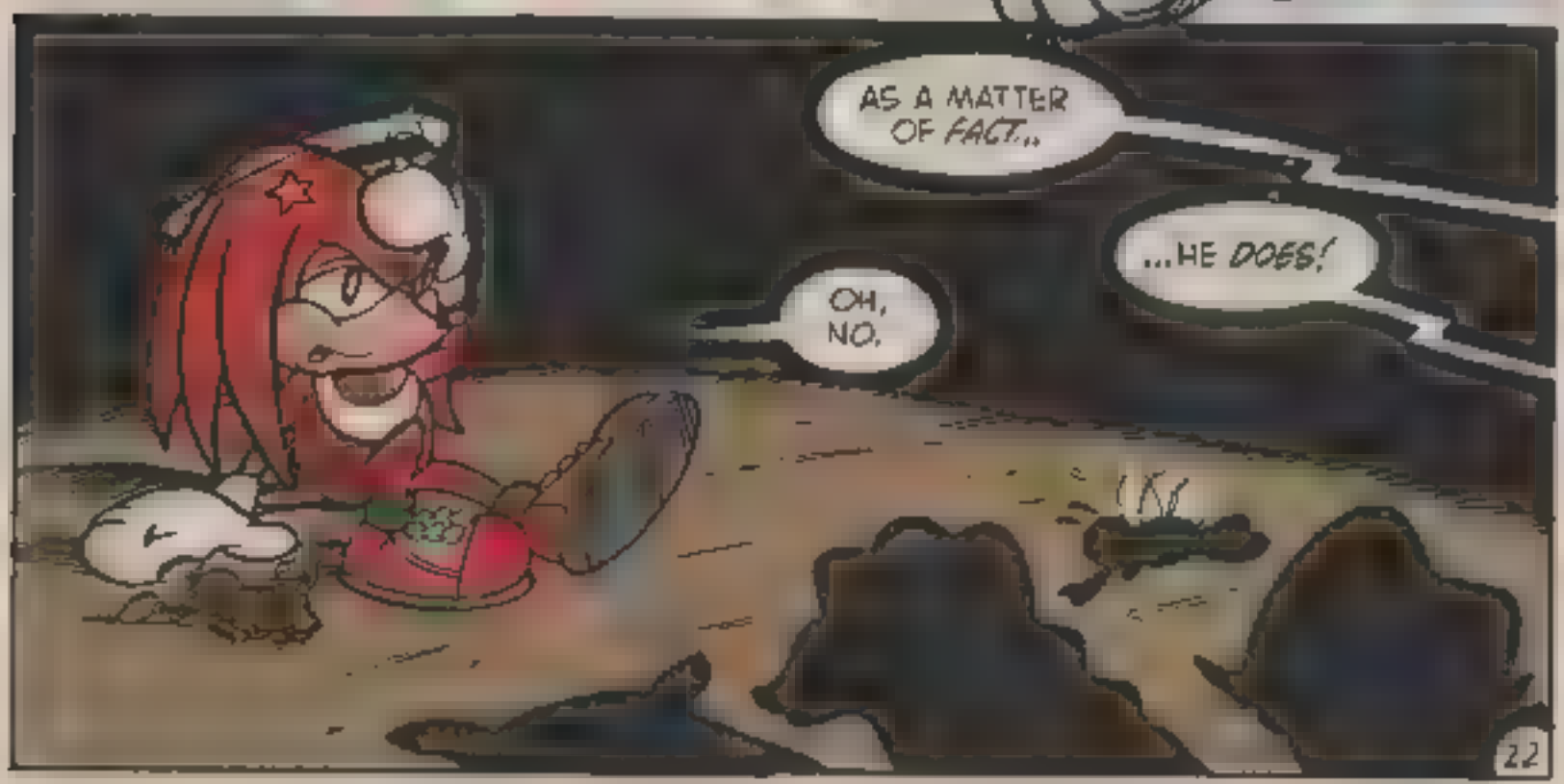

SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT-- WE'VE GOTTEN TOO FAR--MET WITH TOO LITTLE RESISTANCE!
I THOUGHT ENERJAK WOULD HAVE BETTER..

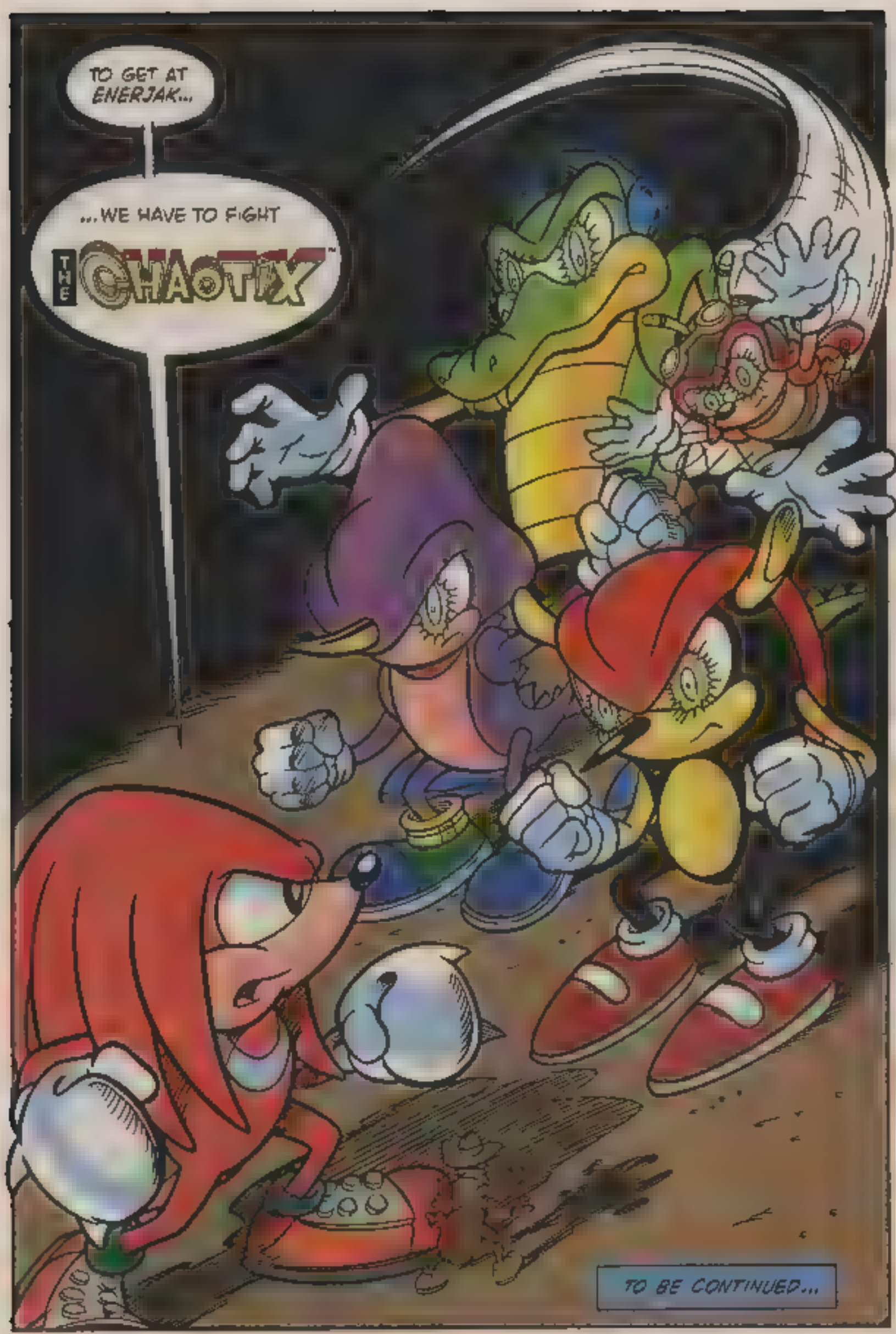
..DEFENSES?
TRIP!

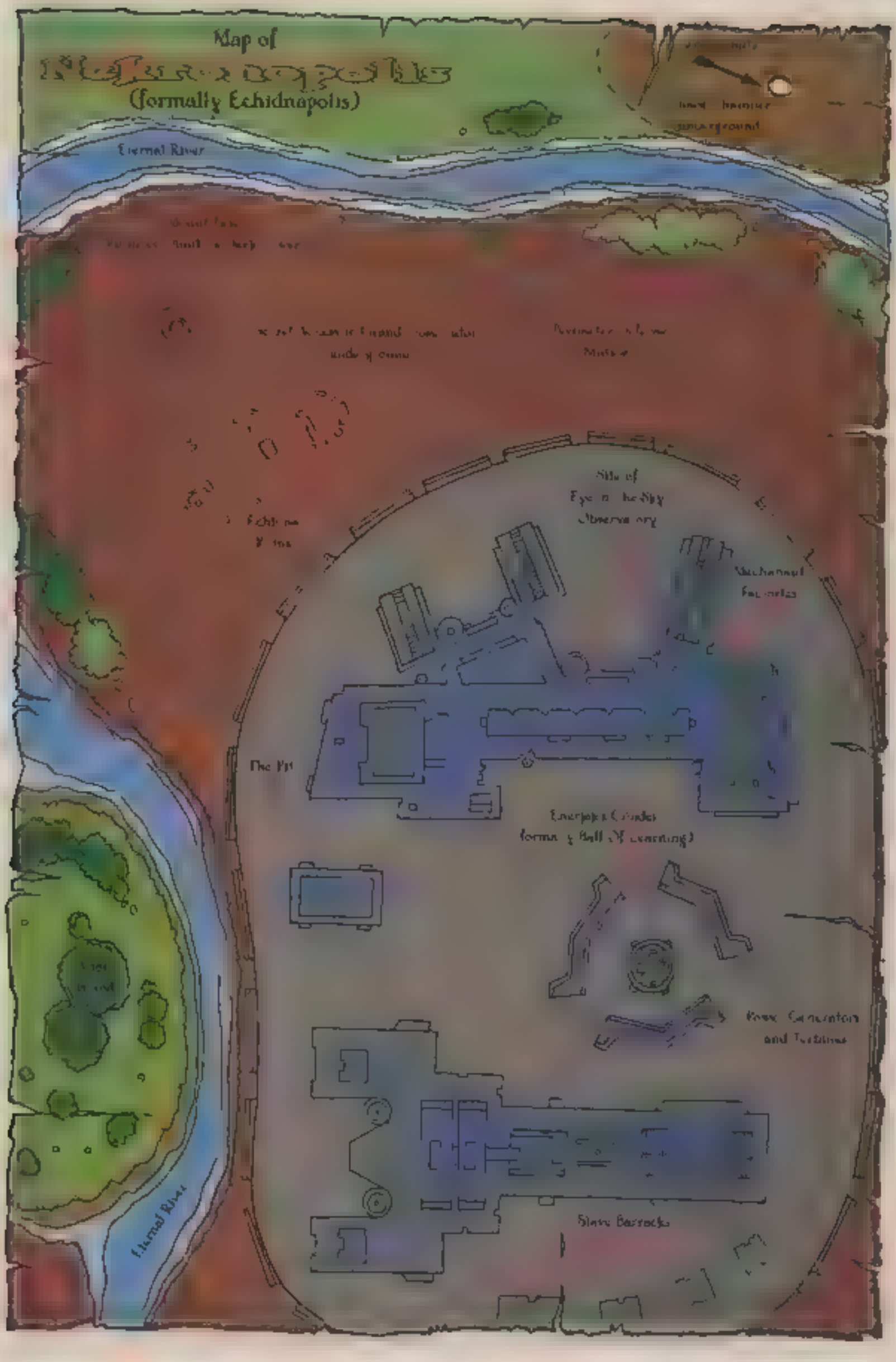

OW!
STING!


VRRUU


OOMPH!
THOOMM


AS A MATTER OF FACT...
...HE DOES!
OH, NO.


TO GET AT ENERJAK...
...WE HAVE TO FIGHT THE CHAOTIX™
TO BE CONTINUED...


Map of
(formally Echidnapolis)
Eternal River
Site of
Observatory
The Pit
Energy Conduit
Slave Barracks
Eternal River

KNUCKLES™ SANDWICH

So why do we call it

"**Knuckles Sandwich**" (besides the obvious reason)? Because this mini-series is packed with a lot of good stuff (hold the mayo)! The sparks are going to fly now that the **Energiak-controlled Chaotix** are about to give **Knuckles and Archimedes** their own version of a "knuckle sandwich!" Besides that match-up, you'll also see **the main event!** It's "**Echidna vs. Echidna**" as **Knuckles and Energiak** have a battle royale that will make even the most skilled wrestler cry! So come back next month for the conclusion of **Knuckles' "Rite of Passage!"** Be there or be **Robotnik!**

P.S.: On sale in two short weeks — Sonic #38! What's Sonic without some sonic speed? You'll find out! Brought to you by the talents of newcomers **Kent Taylor, Manny Galan and Phil Sheehy**. Wait 'til you see Manny's pulsating pencils. They'll rock your socks! Also included, a Tails solo story about his own comic book by **Ken Fiedler and Jon D'Agostino**. **Pat "Razzmatazz" Spaz**, with **Harvo** on inks, sport a beauty of a **cover**.

P.P.S.: Mecha Madness is coming!!!

Dear Knuckles,

I think you're the best echidna on the Floating Island. You're smarter and faster than that dumb and slow hedgehog Sonic. I always play you in the Sonic & Knuckles game. The one time I used Sonic, I only got to the Sandopolis Zone whereas with you I get all the way to the Reef Zone. 1) Where'd you get the cool shoes? I want a pair! 2) Do you like chili-dogs like Sonic? 3) What's the Sonic & Knuckles comic about?

Will "The Knuckles Nut" Schaumburg
W4006 [illegible] Rd.
Mayville, WI 53050

Thanks for the kudos, Will. As far as Sonic goes, I don't think he's slow. 1) I don't know where they came from except that my pops gave it to me. I'm afraid my shoes are one of a kind. Yeah, they are kinda cool-looking. 2) No way, Jose. 3) In a nutshell, Robotnik tries to crash my island into Knothole. Uh, me and Sonic thought the other was to blame so we got into a, uh, minor scuffle. If you want to check it out yourself, you can order it through a coupon in this very issue.

Dear Editors,

I read Knuckles' Chaotix and I thought it was awesome. Keep up the good work! I think their names are weird. Mighty, Vector, Espio and Charmy don't really make me remember who's who that easily. I like everybody else's name because it matches their personality. All and all, the names are fine, really. It can grow on me. I'm a true blue fan to the end. Two thumbs up for everybody. Ten thumbs up for the front cover.

Candice White
309 Hidden River Dr.
Adrian, MI 49221

Hey Candice, I didn't give them their names, really. The Chaotix, on the other hand, don't seem to mind. Spaz thanks you for your ten thumbs. And here I thought you'd be a true red fan. See you in thirty days.

ON SALE JUNE '96! Sonic #38

Knuckles #3

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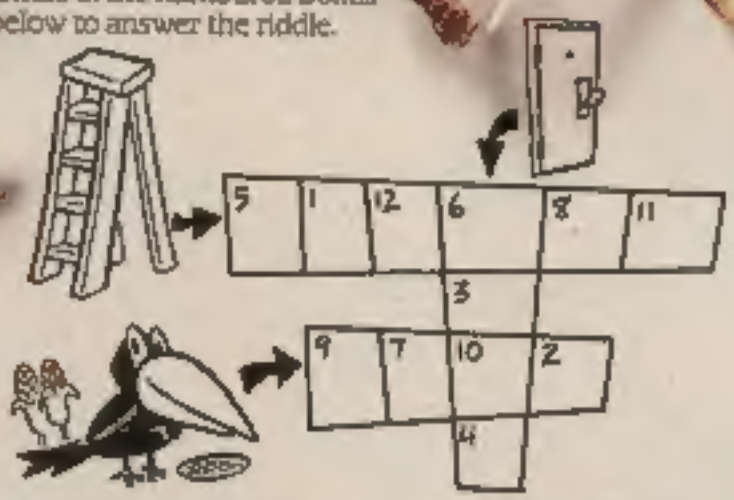
Kit #686

BREAK TIME!

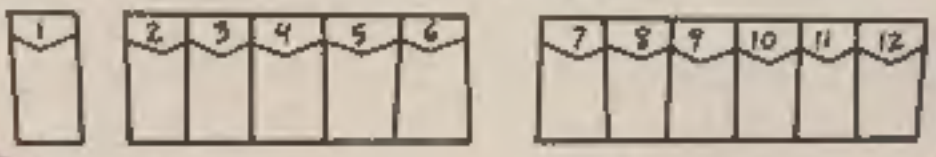
First solve the picture crossword. Then copy the letters in the numbered boxes below to answer the riddle.



How many Kit Kat bars can you find?

Find the things that rhyme with "Kat."

If you break this, people will cheer.



Hey, when you're finished with these puzzles, give your brain a break and have a

Kit Kat bar. Crisp wafers in creamy chocolate. What's there to think about?

How many things can you find that fly?

ANSWER: A WORLD RECORD